

# Union County Interfaith Coordinating Council



MAY 2019

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## WORKING TO AFFIRM THE DIGNITY AND EQUALITY OF ALL “KNOW YOUR NEIGHBOR SUPPORT, YOUR NEIGHBOR”

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### Know Your Neighbor

*Share Your Story and enjoy your favorite cup of tea.*

**Tuesday, June 11, 2019**

**5:30 pm to 8:00 pm**

Westfield Community Room  
425 East Broad St., Westfield, NJ 07090

*Register on Eventbrite*



## UNION COUNTY INTERFAITH COORDINATING COUNCIL Steering Committee Members

**Deacon Tim Williams-Chair**  
First Baptist Church  
Kenilworth

**Sidney Blanchard**  
Associate Executive Director of Community  
Relations— CAU

**Rabbi Joel N. Abraham**  
Temple Sholom  
Scotch Plains

**Ayaz Aslam**  
Muslim Community Center of UC  
Elizabeth

**Pastor H. Bryant**  
Honorable Retired  
Presbyterian Church USA

**Denise Fernandes**  
Latino Outreach

**Rev. Aleyah Lacey**  
CAU Religious Services

**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 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.

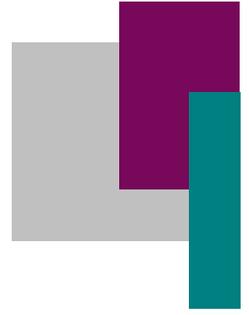
### Our Objectives

- 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.

# UCICC Statement



**By: Reverend Carmine Pernini  
Zion Evangelical Lutheran Church, Rahway**

For the shooting at Chabad synagogue, Poway, CA, to the bombing of churches in Sri Lanka, to the shooting at a mosque in Christchurch, New Zealand, to the Tree of Life Synagogue shooting in Pittsburgh, PA, for all the death that has followed in their wakes, we at the Union County Interfaith Coordinating Council grieve. But, grief is not enough. Words, not enough. Action - even action - is not enough. There has been enough violence against religious communities that, for anyone who has been paying attention, these atrocities strike close to home. The victims, be they of the same religion, locale, or ethnicity, we are all under attack. All of us. And, whatever we do, no matter how much it is, it will never be enough to quell the hatred, rage, and ignorance which is so readily found in the dark and not so dark corners of our society - social media, workplaces and schools, and our own hearts perhaps.

What is needed, I truly believe, is for ALL of us, every single one of us, to say “NO!” to hatred together. No in prayers, no in sentiments, no in action, no to hatred in everything we do as people of faith, people of conscience, people who stand for something rather than nothing, we stand for others, our friends, neighbors, and strangers not because of who they are but because they are.

The Roman Catholic dissident priest, Father Daniel Berrigan once said, “There is no peace because there are no peacemakers. There are no makers of peace because the making of peace is at least as costly as the making of war – at least as exigent, at least as disruptive, at least as liable to bring disgrace and prison, and death in its wake.” The question posed is thus, “What are we willing to sacrifice for peace?” Peace, for people a million miles away, peace for people down the street who use different names for God, peace for those fleeing unimaginable violence. It is all related, and none of these violent acts are the machinations of a lone wolf who has lost grips with this world. But rather, a concerted effort orchestrated by a global network of people so full of hatred that these acts of terror are a culmination, not an accident, of an ideology which has a global influence.

To this, to all of it, we, as a people not so united, must collectively say “NO” to the purveyors of these acts, to the social networks and media outlets that support them, and to a culture which too often looks the other way. Enough is enough. Join us in saying “NO.”

## Peace and blessings

Today I would like to share an article for our community our neighbors to know how Muslim preparation for Ramadan using these 10 tips for upcoming Ramadan start May 6 2019

As the blessed month of Ramadan approaches, we need to prepare for it in such a way that we can gain the maximum benefit of this month. For many, Ramadan comes and goes. However, very few people actually benefit from this great month. Our teachers advise us to live the whole year as if we are in the month of Ramadan. This magnanimous achievement can only be attained when the actual month of Ramadan is spent properly. In order to acquire a droplet of the reality mentioned above, Insha Allah, I hope to mention ten points that were given as form of advice to me and many others.

1. Discipline: Most people already know to abstain from eating, drinking, and sexual relations from one's spouse during the daytime of Ramadan. However, a level of discipline must be developed to do righteous acts and abstain from those acts which would earn the displeasure of Allah. That was a basic form of discipline that needs to be developed but along with that, one needs to have discipline in following a particular routine or schedule for Ramadan. This will be the real life changing factor for an individual. They wake up for suhoor but also pray Tahajjud at that time. Recite some Qur'an. They eat. Make dua' while waiting for Salah. They pray Fajr. Recite Qur'an and make zikr. Rest if they need to. The idea is to make a schedule and act accordingly the whole month without sacrificing their schedule. This is the desired discipline that is required. One may ask, "Why did he not just put the first point as a 'making a schedule'?" Well, the answer is very simple. Anyone can come up with a schedule, but it takes real discipline to abide by it.
2. Devotional life: Ramadan is the month where Allah allows us to really fulfill the purpose of our being, and the purpose of our creation. Allah created us all to worship Him, and Him alone. Here, I will not mention virtues of various acts or worship because those can be found in the many books on the merits of certain deeds. However, since Ramadan and Qur'an are closely connected, I will say that much of our devotional life should be focused on the Qur'an. Reciting at least the entire Qur'an once in this month. Understanding it from erudite scholarship of our community or from accepted commentators and Tafaaseer. I am not asking that a person recites the entire Qur'an and completes one entire commentary of it in one month. Perhaps it may be feasible to recite the entire Qur'an and start off a regimen of a Tafseer and try to finish it on an annual basis.
3. Identifying with the Ummah: It is important that we feel our fast, i.e. feel hunger and thirst. Apart from that, we can use this to our benefit by making other people's fast count for us as well. This means that if we feed or give to drink something to someone who fasts, we can get the reward of their fast as well. Another aspect of identifying with the Ummah is to be grateful for whatever Allah has given us and realize that a little of that we need to give to others so that they may have a decent Ramadan and wonderful 'Eid. See what the Ummah is going through and see how we can actively participate to help the Ummah in any way possible.
4. Contact with the Qur'an: Ramadan is the month wherein the Qur'an was revealed. This is the month of the Qur'an. It is extremely essential to establish a relationship with the Qur'an. Without going into much detail, I will just mention something practical with regards to the Qur'an and Ramadan. For the average person, i.e. one who is not scholar or is not a Hafiz, they should read at least one juz per day so that they finish at a minimum one entire Qur'an for the month of Ramadan. If one can do more, than Alhamdulillah, no one is stopping anyone. The next thing is to understand the Qur'an. So take the first volume of Ma'arifur Qur'an (for example) and read one section of the Arabic part (if one can) and then read the translation, then read the commentary. Do this every day without fail. Obviously the whole commentary will not be completed in one month, but at least a schedule to read a portion regularly will be developed and hopefully within a year it could be completed. Also, one should try to memorize those chapters/surahs which are read often like Mulk, Kahf, Ya Seen, Waqi'ah, and Sajdah. Also memorize Surahs from the last juz at least and more if possible.
5. Mujāhadah: Ramadan is a month of sacrifice and struggle. It is a month where Allah wants our time, our health, our wealth, and our whole being. We literally live the whole year for everything and anything. It is just one month...can we not live one month solely for our Creator?! So what if we have to sacrifice our sleep, and random other luxuries that we can do without anyway. As the saying goes, "No

pain, no gain.” The amount of sacrifice and struggle we put into this month, Allah will reward us in this world and the next accordingly. Give yourself to Allah, and see what Allah has in store for you.

6. Du’a: The essence of worship is supplication to Allah. This whole month, Allah is willing and readily open to accept all that we ask of Him. It is only to our own loss and detriment that we lack in begging Allah for the things we need. Prioritize your supplications. Ask firstly for yourself, then your family, community, then the Ummah at large. Within that, prioritize and ask for things pertaining to the hereafter, then ask for things pertaining to this world. Just remember one thing when it comes to dua’, the point of dua’ is not that we need something or we need protection or refuge from some other thing, the point is that Allah told us to supplicate to Him, and that is why one should make dua’ abundantly. There are certain things Allah loves to do, and one of them is to answer the supplications of His servants who call unto Him. One final aspect regarding dua’ is crying or pretending to cry. Tears are something foreign to Allah and therefore He has immense value for tears. The whole year we become filthy and impure spiritually by sinning, Ramadan is the month where we purify our spirits by bathing our spirits in our tears.

7. Good Company: Ramadan is a month to maximize on good deeds and keep bad deeds at zero. Being in the company of the righteous will allow one to attain this goal. I will keep this point short. The minimum benefit one gets by being in good company is that one will not sin which in turn will cause one to become the greatest worshiper based off the hadith of Tirmidhi wherein Nabi (Sallallahu ‘Alayhi Wa Sallam) took Abu Hurayrah (Radhiyallahu ‘anhu)’s hand and said, “O Abu Hurayrah, abstain from all prohibitions and you will become the best worshiper.” The maximum benefit is that being with the people of Allah, Insha Allah; a person may just Attain Allah. What can be greater?!

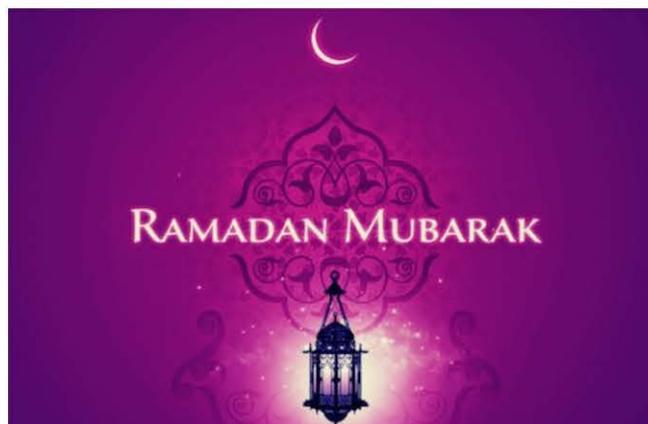
8. Gratitude: The secret to an increase in anything is to be thankful for it. To make sure that we see this month the next year, appreciate it this year. Be thankful for all that we have in every aspect, even the basic things we neglect and take for granted. We have Iman, we have Islam. Alhamdulillah, we are the best Ummah. We have been given the best book, i.e. the Qur’an. The best way to appreciate a bounty is to use it for its purpose. Allah has blessed with infinite blessing and bounties. Ramadan is one of those bounties, so to fully appreciate Ramadan, we must spend it the way Allah would like us to spend it and attain our goal which is Taqwa.

9. Following the Sunnah: Anything of the beloved is also beloved. That is a principle of love. Allah has proclaimed the Prophet (Sallallahu ‘Alayhi Wa Sallam) as His beloved. If we follow the Sunnah and show a resemblance, then we can also gain the focus of Allah. Particularly follow the Sunnah acts which the Prophet (Sallallahu ‘Alayhi Wa Sallam) performed in Ramadan. If we have to do something, might as well do it the best way possible. The best way for anything to be done is the way of the Sunnah. If by any chance it was some other way, Allah would have had His Prophet (Sallallahu ‘Alayhi Wa Sallam) do it that way then.

10. Istiqāmah: Imam Junayd Al-Baghdadi (RA) said, “Steadfastness is greater than a thousand miracles.” Please do not tire one’s self out in the initial stages of Ramadhan, rather figure out a routine that works and stick to it regularly. The most beloved of actions to Allah are those that are done consistently even though they may seem minor. We all need to be thankful for the good that we have done and also for the evil we are able to abstain from. We also need to be thankful for whatever level of steadfastness that we have. We want to make Ramadan last beyond Ramadan as well. I’ll end with a quote from one of our mashayikh, Shaykh In’aam-ul-Hasan Kandahlawi (RA) said, “Whoever lives their life as they do in Ramadan, then death will come to that person just as the moon of ‘Eid comes for the fasting person.”

To conclude, we pray to Allah that He accepts all of our efforts and overlooks and forgives all of our shortcomings. Amin.

May God bless our community  
Dr Wail Rasheed  
Islamic Center of Union County



# Faith in Action



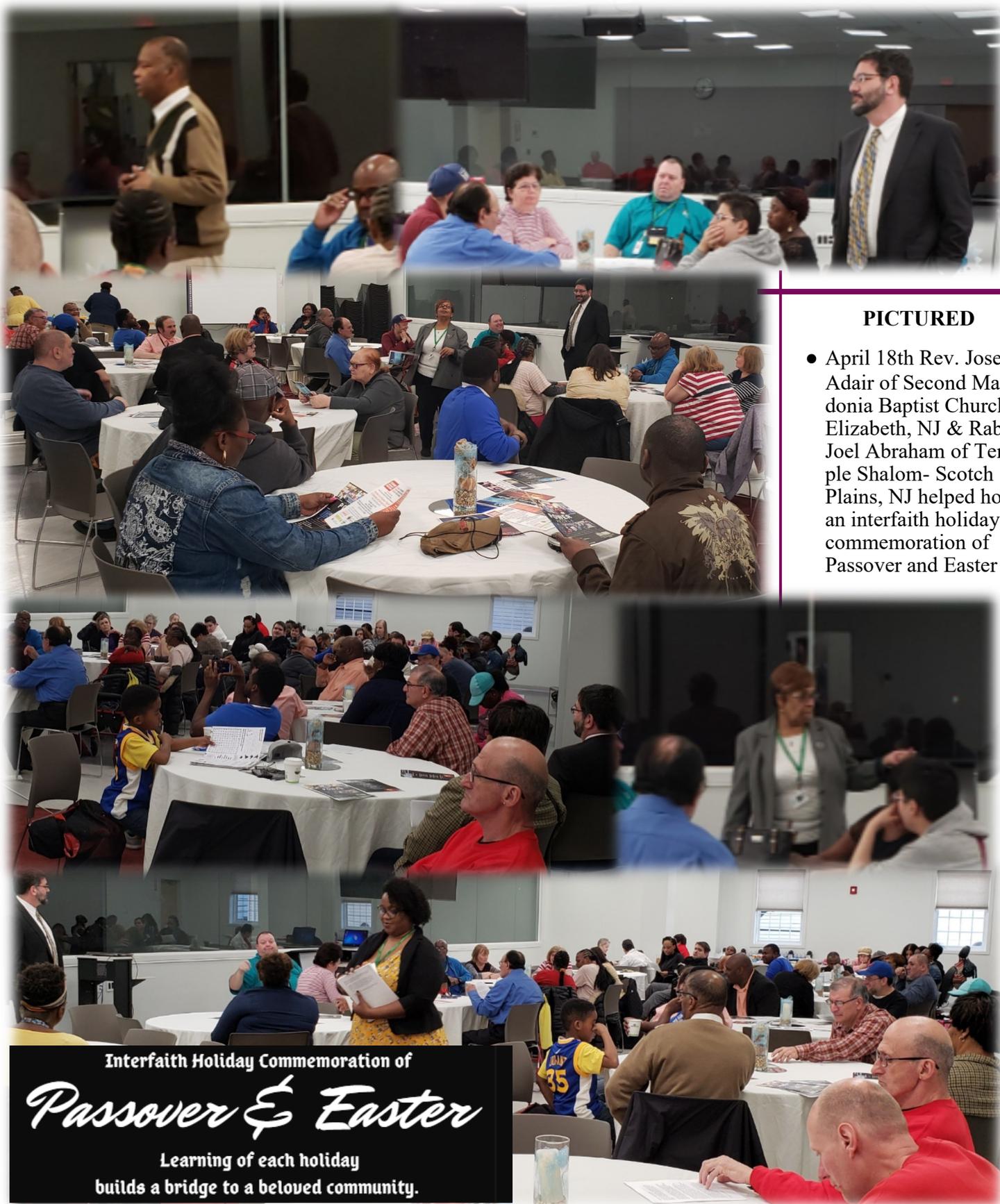
# Faith in Action

## PICTURED

- Faith into Action held on April 3rd was a time for the faith community to connect to those looking for a community to call their own



# Faith in Action



## PICTURED

- April 18th Rev. Joseph Adair of Second Macedonia Baptist Church - Elizabeth, NJ & Rabbi Joel Abraham of Temple Shalom- Scotch Plains, NJ helped host an interfaith holiday commemoration of Passover and Easter

Interfaith Holiday Commemoration of

*Passover & Easter*

Learning of each holiday  
builds a bridge to a beloved community.

*Dear Neighbor,*

*If you knew me, you would know that I am not one person but 100 dedicated volunteers who support our community 7 days a week, 365 days a year. Each day we take calls from people who are in emotional distress, or are sad, lonely, or just need someone to listen to them. We take calls from children and adults. We listen to people of every faith, sexual orientation and age. Every time we answer a call we listen non-judgmentally and with empathy. We are not here to “fix” but to provide a space for an individual to be heard. In 2018 we responded to 10,750 calls from men, women and children.*

*Caring Contact was founded in 1975 and is the only general listening service for all of northern and central New Jersey, a service area with 3 million inhabitants in Union, Essex, Middlesex, Morris and Somerset counties. We are a member agency of the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline network and our confidential hotline services are available to anyone.*

*In 2018 we worked with community organizations and trained over 1,000 people in active listening, Mental Health First Aid, Youth Mental Health First Aid, and ASIST (Applied Suicide Intervention Skills Training), as well as Suicide Awareness and Intervention for adults, teens, and first responders. Organizations and individuals come to us to learn more about caring for others in emotional pain. Caring Contact offers presentations about our hotline services and how to help someone in emotional distress to schools, community agencies, first responders, police departments, congregations, and other organizations.*

*If you, or someone you know, is in emotional distress or you just need someone to speak to, please call 908.301.1899, 7 am - 11 pm. If you are in crisis please call 800-273-8255, 24/7.*

*Please visit [caringcontact.org](http://caringcontact.org) for more information on our organization and how to volunteer.*

*Thank you.*

*Your Neighbor, Caring Contact*





*Dear Neighbor,*

*If you knew me, you would know that my story is a bit unusual...not commonly expected, to say the least. My big adventure of coming to America started in 1993 and through the time, it took some unforeseen turns and detours. It is a journey then one can call journey of faith, although for me it truly became a journey of travelling to distant country and culture to actually find myself, my inner journey.*

*I was born and grew up in Poland. I went to school and graduated from college there... but it wasn't the economy of tourism which I studied that had prompted me to try my luck in travelling... it was a search deep inside me, a quest for the Holy Grail, my real self that so many of us undertake to find the answer to the million dollar question: who am I..? and what's my purpose..? It was that search that had me embarked on, what I was going to discover would be my faith journey.*

*In November 1993 I signed up the contract and started to work for Celebrity Cruise Lines. For my first contract, I flew to a very hot and beautiful Puerto Rico to join the ship, M/V Horizon, which would become my home for a couple of years. I was very excited and anticipated a big adventure, (and a fact that my luggage was delayed due to a snowy weather in Germany and that I was all dressed in wool and fur, and that I had no clothes to change - all my clothes were in my luggage - was not going to change the way I felt). The very thought of being in Puerto Rico was exhilarating and I saw myself, as I won a lottery to be able to experience all that ...and let me tell you, "all that" was a lot to experience. Passengers and crew from all over the world, exposure to numerous cultures, getting to know people in their incredible diversity of many "tribes and tongues" and travelling to so many different places, distant and beautiful places, was truly remarkable experience, for which I will be forever grateful.*

*M/V Horizon was a place I called home for close to five years all together. During my last year of stay on the ship, I started a journey that became my faith journey, the one that keeps unfolding still today.*

*I met a friend, who was a Christian, whom I became very close with and who became instrumental to start me on my search for God. Now, by the nature of my personality I am usually on search for something... but let me assure you, God wasn't on my list for searching. Growing in very secular circles I was to degree agnostic and my understanding of God was lacking in all aspects. The concept of having relationship with living God was a very awkward idea and definitely not something that I would imagine real or be interested to pursue. Yet, in the summer 1997, on board of the M/V Horizon I officially found God and my life was changed forever. I like to say that God "tricked me" ... (joking of course),*

as I refer to the way how I found Him. To be honest, I was super interested in the friend of mine and not interested at all in what he had to say about God, his faith or his religion. But at some point, however, in my attempt to understand my friend, whom I perceived as “incredibly cool” and then dealing with all his talks about religion that I didn’t perceive as “cool” at all, I needed to really figure out what was going on. I guess, dear reader, you won’t be very surprised at this point if I tell you that during that entire process of figuring out what was going on with my friend, I actually did figure out what was going on with me. By searching through the Bible, (my friend brought me New Testament from Polish Catholic Mission in Sitka, Alaska, the first Bible I ever read!), I found God and experienced a change that would transform my life completely.

Things started to happen one by one, just as puzzle pieces one by one are adding to the complete picture in the end. After my contract on the ship was finished by the end of 1997, I came back to Poland but I knew that I needed to continue on my freshly started faith journey and it somehow wasn’t happening there. And, as you would know well by now, being the searcher that I am, I came to continue my life search here in United States. Just as when I landed in Puerto Rico five years before, New York of 1998 was all that what opportunity, anticipation and curious hope could mean for me then. I was hungry for God, hungry for knowledge, hungry for church and hungry for anything that would explain me more of who God was. So, I decided to study. I enrolled myself and became a student of American Bible College and Seminary in Oklahoma. I read all I could, I watched all I could, I listen what I could. I was happy with all being so easily accessible here. Truly God blessed America.... But there was detour in my faith journey that took me to a place that was, least to say, unfamiliar ground for me culturally. I don’t intend here to bore you, dear reader, with all details, so to make my long story short let me just assure you that due to my life circumstances I needed to attend Institute in New York that was accredited by American Bible College and Seminary in Oklahoma. Institute was led by Hispanic organization and this is where familiar ground ended and detour started. Different language and culture were not easy ride at first. Detour got even longer when I found myself attending Hispanic church ... and you just need to believe me when I say that I tried everything I could to find nice American church for myself...but it just didn’t work. God would close all doors that I tried to open and circumstantially there would be no provision for any other but the Hispanic church I started to attend. It has been twenty years from the time I first came to Comunidad Cristiana, the church God had in mind for me. I fought with God for a long time, questioning his “weird” choice and trying to find better fitting church for myself. As you will most probably figure out this one also, God won. I won, however, too. It took me a while but I finally understood what was the purpose of mingling my life with the lives of my Hispanic brothers and sisters. I figured out the immense blessing of learning from the strengths (and weaknesses) of different cultures. And

*Comunidad had something to offer me that I could never found on my own. It inspired me further on my search for more of God, deeper faith and continued quest for loving more. And because I am always on the search for knowing deeper and loving stronger, honoring each other uniqueness and deeply connecting to others and to the world, I am very glad. As Andrew Carnegie said, "I think of myself as on the threshold of unparalleled success. A whole, clear, glorious life lies before me. Achieve! Achieve!" For me that's definition of beautiful inner journey.*

***Katarzyna Szymanowska***  
***Comunidad Cristiana, Member***

### **Comunidad Cristiana**

Servicios— Domingos 11:45 am

780 Salem Ave, Elizabeth NJ 07208  
908-509-1395



COMUNIDAD CRISTIANA

## **Quienes Somos**

Somos una iglesia alegre y dinámica que nos reunimos para alabar a Dios de una manera diferente a la iglesia tradicional. Le alabamos con merengue, salsa baladas y todo ritmo latino.

Brindamos oportunidades para que pueda crecer en Jesucristo, evangelizar, tiempo de compañerismo, grupos de comunidad y eventos especiales.

Estamos comprometidos en preparar una atmósfera alegre y manifestaciones de amor que le invite a experimentar y reconocer cuanto le ama Dios a usted y cuanto desea establecer una relación de amistad para su progreso en todas las áreas de su desarrollo.

Pastores Raul y Kareen Burgos

CITY OF ELIZABETH AND LIFELONG ELIZABETH PRESENT

# TRANSPORTATION SUMMIT

IN CELEBRATION OF OLDER ADULTS MONTH

EVERYONE / RIDERS

**May 14, 2019**

Elizabeth Public Library  
Main Branch  
11 South Broad Street  
10:00AM-2:00PM



DRIVERS

**May 30, 2019**

Peterstown Community  
Center  
418 Palmer Street  
10:00AM-2:00PM

Join Lifelong Elizabeth, City of Elizabeth Transportation Department, and City of Elizabeth Office on Aging, to learn about the many transportation options available to get around the city and how to become a safer driver!

- **BUS DEMO!**
- **GIVEAWAYS AND SNACKS!**
- **CARFIT - PERSONALIZED SAFETY ASSESSMENT!**

**With information from:**

- NJ Transit**
- NJTIP @ Rutgers**
- AARP Driver Safety**
- City of Elizabeth - Transportation Department**
- City of Elizabeth - Office on Aging**
- AAA and CarFit**
- Union County ParaTransit**
- AccessLink**
- EZ Ride - Ride 4 Lyfe**
- Uber/Lyft**
- ...and many more!**

For more information: 908-352-8375 [cherrera@jfscentralnj.org](mailto:cherrera@jfscentralnj.org)



**NJTIP @  
RUTGERS**



Lifelong Elizabeth, a program of Jewish Family Service of Central NJ, is possible by a grant from The Grotta Fund for Senior Care.

Dear Neighbor,

*If you knew me you would know that I have a friend that has forever changed my life. Almost a year ago I nervously parked my car outside of a warehouse while questions filled my head. I asked myself, what in the world am I going to talk about with a perfect stranger? What can I say to make them feel better? Will my visit even matter? See I was on my way to visit a detained man seeking asylum as a volunteer for First Friends of NJ & NY, thanks to a story told by a friend from church about her time as a volunteer. So here I was nervous with a name, African Country of origin, and google facts in my head about his country. My friend from church, Ellen met me and walked me through the entry process until we separated to meet our different people.*

*Eventually men enter the room in prison uniforms my friend among them. We stumble through the usual awkward get to know you conversation. Then he asks a question that will be part of every conversation we ever have. "What did you eat today?" As you can imagine the food is not something to look forward to in jail. So we begin our friendship around food. We talk about dishes he misses and he asks me to explain the foods I am eating. He smiles even though he teases me to just once tell him I ate something with meat since I'm vegan. We then laugh. We laugh a lot as time goes on in a room that is often heavy with uncertainty and sadness.*

*My friend like many people being detained has no idea what lies outside of the walls that hold him. So I send him letters and pictures of my travels between visits. He is your neighbor you never get to see and story you don't get to hear. He is a kind man that has fled with his life when those around him were dying. He patiently waits, like so many for a decision as to whether he can join his family that lives states away. His perseverance and insight often leaves me questioning who really benefits from our visits him or me. Until one day I received a call from his family. They passed the telephone around with such joy in their voice. "He has his first American friend, I can't believe it! Thank you so much for visiting him, we are so far away. He tells us how nice of a person you are to him. Thank you for making sure he can call us. You keep his spirits up. Someone actually cares! Thank you, thank you, thank you!". I was floored! My visit matters to his family so much. Then he sent me a card that he received through donations. "Thank you Charlene for the positive energy you brought into my life. May you swim in the blue ocean of joy, dance in the golden light and laugh in the raging river of life. Of the friends I've ever had there is no one as special as you. Stay bless!" Needless to say I cried from his touching note, reassured my visit matters. Join First Friends of NJ & NY and find out how you can do something that matters too. Telephone (908) 965-0455*

Your Neighbor,  
Charlene Walker



Dear Neighbor,

If you knew the members of the New American Movement for People with Disabilities (NAMPWD) you would know that they are made up of passionate advocates working hard to ensure that people with different abilities (developmental and intellectual disabilities) live the lives they choose.

Well right now the members of NAMPWD really needs your help to ensure they are at the table when decisions are made about them. "Nothing about us, without us!" states advocate Mark Bloom. "You can't decide what to do for me without me. I have rights just as much as you." Recently NAMPWD has become concerned by a proposal that is apparently being supported by the New Jersey Ombudsman for People with Disabilities that would see the installation of invasive security cameras in group homes and supervised apartments across the state. This proposal is currently being trial-ballooned by certain legislators in the state assembly.

NAMPWD founding member Gary Rubin, an outspoken self-advocate, feels people with different abilities need to take urgent action on the "Peeping Tom" proposal. "The New Jersey Ombudsman for People with Developmental and Intellectual Disabilities is allegedly pushing legislation that would see the installation of invasive security cameras in group homes and supervised apartments across the state. This proposal is being made with complete disregard to the wishes of people with different abilities and is a violation of our right to privacy. We need to tell the Ombudsman and the world that people with different abilities deserve choice and privacy in their own homes."

NAMPWD would like your support in signing and sharing a petition found at <https://www.change.org/p/new-jersey-state-house-strike-down-the-peeping-tom-proposal>. By signing this petition you are stating "As a concerned citizen I am urging those in leadership to act now to prevent a bill requiring cameras within the homes of those with different abilities (Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities). I assert that is a violation of the basic human right to privacy. This action would not serve to improve safety within the community of those with disabilities or ensure quality services. Instead I am urging that a focus group of advocates, support professionals, and families be established to provide input as to what is needed to support this community."

Sincerely,  
NAMPWD





FAITH IN UNION COUNTY

# POWER

TO THE

# PEOPLE



We the people of Union County are powerful and demand justice! Faith Leaders, Community Leaders, & those Directly Impacted will unite to discuss our local concerns then design a plan to build the county we deserve.

MAY 8, 2019

7:00 PM - 9:00 PM

SECOND PRESBYTERIAN  
CHURCH

1161 E. JERSEY ST.

ELIZABETH, NJ 07201



Find Us on Facebook for  
more information & to  
RSVP

The Union County

Fatherhood Initiative Coalition, Inc

Men Standing On The  
Shoulders of Men

WWW.UCNFATHERHOOD.ORG



7th  
Annual

# UNION COUNTY FATHERHOOD

## BREAKFAST CONFERENCE

HEALTHY FATHERS • HEALTHY FAMILIES  
8 WAYS TO WELLNESS

Save  
the  
Date

Saturday, June 8, 2019 • 8:00am - 12:00pm

COMMUNITY ACCESS UNLIMITED

80 W. Grand Street, Elizabeth, NJ

### SPONSORS



PROVIDING EDUCATION INFORMATION AND RESOURCES  
TO FATHERS, RECOGNIZING THEIR VITAL ROLE IN THE  
HEALTH AND WELL-BEING OF THEIR FAMILIES.

UCFIC • PO BOX 505, Rahway, NJ 07065 • [ucnjfatherhood@gmail.com](mailto:ucnjfatherhood@gmail.com)



# GreenFaith<sup>SM</sup> New Jersey

## Action Day!

GreenFaith New Jersey Circles and  
Local Partners and Friends

Temple B'nai Abraham, 300 E Northfield Rd,  
Livingston, NJ 07039

May 19th 2019 at 2pm - 5pm

GreenFaith New Jersey invites you to our annual Action Day to enjoy a vegetarian meal, celebrate our victories, explore how we can support the Green New Deal and act on key New Jersey issues.

To confirm your attendance, please contact Sarah Newell  
[sarah@greenfaith.org](mailto:sarah@greenfaith.org)

# Community Home Care Solutions

*From home repairs to personal care and more, our expert staff provide home-based assistance throughout New Jersey that can meet your individual need and lifestyle.*

*Services can be purchased via Medicaid or through private insurance.*

*This program trains and employs Certified Home Health Aids who deliver quality services that help you maintain independence.*



COMMUNITY ACCESS  
UNLIMITED

We provide help for your health and home that include the following services:

- Personal Care Assistance
- Errands & Transportation
- Meal Preparation & Dietary Information
- Light Housekeeping
- 24-hour on-call services with registered nurses
- Advisement from Certified Dementia Practitioners
- Home transition from hospital or nursing home
- Home & Property Maintenance
- Home Repairs, Chores & Improvements
- Snow & Leaf Removal
- Cleaning Clutter Removal
- Moving & Relocation Assistance

*Interested in becoming a Certified Home Health Aide?  
Learn about how our program can launch your professional career!*

Contact us for a free consultation & assessment!  
908-354-3040 | [info@caunj.org](mailto:info@caunj.org) | [caunj.org](http://caunj.org)





**Office supplies shouldn't be a financial burden.**

By partnering with a large, financially stable organization like Community Access Unlimited, you can leverage our buying power and put more money toward your mission.

**CAU Wants to Reduce Your Office Supply Costs**  
Join our Office Supply Cooperative for Savings as **BIG** as Your Mission!

Staples is partnering with CAU so you can enjoy major discounts on orders of \$50 or more through a special online portal.

**For just \$25**, you can purchase an annual membership for savings of **60-80%** on office supplies and 40% on toner cartridges. *All you have to do is join!*

Customized pricing based on your organization's specialized supply needs is available.

Your Staples representative is there to serve you. Membership is nontransferable and must be renewed annually and is open to any organization or business.

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For more information about our office supports, please contact **Laura Hankerson at 908.354.3040, ext. 4240** or visit the Resources tab on **caunj.org**.

# Religious Services at CAU

Did you know that the CAU community is exploring religion and having worship in a unique and innovative way?



UCICC member, Reverend Aleyah Lacey of Mount Teman A.M. E. Church on Saturdays gathers members of CAU's (Community Access Unlimited) DD Community and TOP youth to explore faith and worship. You are invited to share your faith and talents at these interfaith services. Services are held on Saturdays at 11am and 1pm and are for an hour long. If you have a positive inspirational message, would like to provide worship, and have a willing heart to serve please consider being a blessing at these interfaith services.

*Rev. Aleyah Lacey pictured left*

## Our objectives are:

1. To provide a safe space for our members to worship God
2. To foster spiritual growth through the diverse understandings of God
3. To build up the community in faith, hope, and love

If you would like to volunteer in this amazing ministerial opportunity or find out more, please contact Union County Interfaith Coordinating Council at [UCInterfaith@caunj.org](mailto:UCInterfaith@caunj.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](http://www.caunj.org) for more information and current listings. openings. Community Access Unlimited is an Equal Opportunity Employer.

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

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 4203. If you are unable to attend the open house, please fax resume to (908) 354-0283 or email to [rwright@caunj.org](mailto:rwright@caunj.org).

## 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 **one of 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.

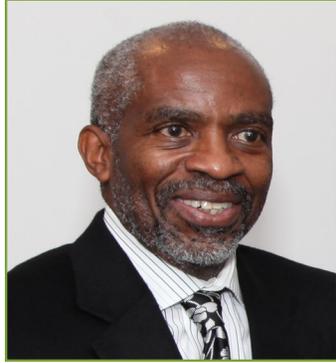
\* Documents and interview are required to qualify.

**Contact Gene Tavera X 4272.**

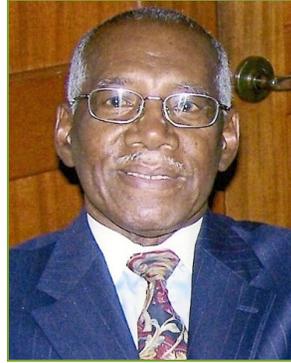
# UCICC Outreach Coordinating Team



*Sidney Blanchard,  
Associate Executive Director  
Community Relations  
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*



*Charlene Walker  
Community Organizer  
cwalker@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.

Contact Rod Spearman at  
908-354-3040 x 4324  
for more information on becoming  
a member

### 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](mailto: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](mailto:UCInterfaith@caunj.org)

[www.facebook.com/UnionCountyInterfaithCoordinatingCouncil](http://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 UP-COMING EVENTS

### UCICC Steering Committee

May 2, 2019 at 10am  
80 W. Grand Street  
Elizabeth, NJ 07202  
See Right side

No Event  
Look out for e-mails  
About Partner Events

### UCICC Steering Committee

June 6, 2019 at 10:00am  
80 W Grand St  
Elizabeth NJ 07202

See Right side

Know Your Neighbor  
Date: Tuesday, June 11, 2019  
Time: 5:30 pm to 8:00 pm  
Westfield Community Room  
425 East Broad St., Westfield, NJ 07090

### UCICC Steering Committee

July 11, 2019 at 10:00am  
80 W Grand St  
Elizabeth NJ 07202  
See Right side

Praise and Worship  
Date: TBD  
Time: 6pm-8pm  
Location: To Be Determined



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