InterFaith Leadership Council of Metropolitan Detroit

FAITHS CONNECTED, COMMUNITIES STRENGTHENED, TOGETHER WE THRIVE

2025 April Newsletter

Faiths Connected, Communities Strengthened, Together We Thrive

Bridging to Belonging

Don't Miss This Powerful Film Screening – Tomorrow Night!

Can we still come together across deep divides? **UNDIVIDE US says YES**—and shows us how. Join us for this eye-opening, FREE documentary screening that proves civil dialogue is not only possible—it's necessary. Refreshments will be served.

Come for the film. Stay for the conversation. Let's be the bridge!
DOORS OPEN AT 5:30!

CLICK BELOW TO REGISTER!

You're Invited: Fall Bridging to Belonging Group Discussion Experience!

Join us this fall for a powerful journey of connection and conversation across differences. Beginning in September/October, our Bridging to Belonging group will meet every other week for engaging and thoughtful discussions designed to build deepen understanding, create connections, and nurture community.

- Includes one orientation session and four biweekly discussions over approximately 10 weeks
- Location: Geneva Presbyterian Church, 5835 N Sheldon Rd, Canton, MI 48187

Cost for participation is $150, which includes the orientation, all four discussion sessions, access to online materials, and a take-home Participant Guide to support your journey.

Interested in participating?
Email **bethf@detroitinterfaithcouncil.com** to learn more and get involved.

Let's build belonging—together.

Kali and Bill Sawaya listen as Rachel Cannon, founder of Vitality Source, speaks about the Bridging to Belonging program Aug. 24 at Olivet Lutheran Church in Sylvania. (TFP Photo/Laurie Bertke)

Can One Workshop Really Spark a Movement?

Check out this inspiring story from just across the border in Ohio, where neighbors came together in Sylvania to learn how to build bridges instead of walls. The Bridging to Belonging movement—originally born in Metro Detroit—is now taking root in new communities, equipping everyday people with tools to listen deeply, connect across differences, and create space for everyone to belong.

Read the full article from the Toledo Free Press and see how one afternoon is launching a ripple effect of connection!

Read Full Article

Interested in learning more about the Bridging to Belonging program, sponsored by the InterFaith Leadership Council of Metropolitan Detroit, and how you can get involved?

CLICK THE PHOTO BELOW

Interfaith Health Equity Partnership

Celebrate Mother's Day with Purpose and Wellness!

Join us for a meaningful and memorable Mother's Day Health Event, in proud partnership with Zaman International! Whether you're a mom, mom-to-be, or simply love someone who is—this is your day to feel celebrated, supported, and empowered.

- Discover essential resources from Wayne Health, Henry Ford, and MSU Mobile Health Units
- Learn about mental health, sleep safety, breastfeeding, and so much more
- Connect with professionals, grab free resources, and enjoy wellness activities for the whole family

Don't miss this chance to honor motherhood, health, and community—all in one event!

Made possible through generous support from SEMPQIC, Wayne State University, MDHHS, and DMC.

Let's make this Mother's Day about more than flowers—
let's make it about health, hope, and healing.

We can't wait to see you there! Stay Tuned for More Details!

Don't miss our FREE Maternal & Infant Health Advancement Resource Library

Your one-stop guide for prenatal and postnatal care! Empower your journey with trusted tools, expert tips, and practical guidance every step of the way!

Our Maternal Infant Health Advancement initiative, "Bridging the Gaps Where We Belong," is supported by grant funding from the Southeast Michigan Perinatal Quality Improvement Coalition, Michigan Department of Health and Human Services, and United Way for Southeastern Michigan. We aim to empower Detroit and surrounding communities with the knowledge and tools for better health and well-being.

Access to reliable health information remains a challenge, especially in maternal health and chronic conditions like hypertension, which impact BIPOC and underserved communities.

The Prenatal and Postnatal Care Resource Library is now live, providing expectant mothers and health advocates with essential information for healthier pregnancy outcomes, empowering individuals through their journey to parenthood.

Education Programs

Learn. Connect. Belong.

Join us for **Faith Impacts Life: An Interfaith Conversation** on **May 9, 2025, at 1:00 PM**.

In partnership with the Education Committee of the InterFaith Leadership Council and WISDOM, SOAR LLI presents a unique opportunity to hear personal stories and learn about five diverse faith traditions. For just $10, engage in an afternoon of conversation and community building that will help bridge divides, inspire connection and foster understanding.

CLICK FLYER BELOW TO REGISTER

SOAR
LIFELONG LEARNING INSTITUTE

SPRING 2025 SPECIAL EVENT

Faith Impacts Life:
An Interfaith Conversation
May 9, 2025, at 1:00 P.M.
$10 admission

In partnership with the Education Committee of The Interfaith Leadership Council of Metropolitan Detroit and WISDOM, SOAR LLI presents a community building afternoon with representatives from five different faith traditions. Jewish, Christian, Muslim, Hindu and Buddhist panelists will share personal stories and explain common misunderstandings about their faith.

Please join other members of the community as we work to build bridges and better understand our neighbors.

Distinguished panelists

Dr. Walid Harb
Islam

Rev. Dr. Theodore T. Turman
Christianity

Rabbi Dorit Edut
Judaism

Nasy Sankagiri
Hinduism

Delores Lyons
Buddhism

For more information or to register, visit our website:
www.soarexplore.com

248-626-0296
info@soarexplore.com
29995 W. 12 Mile RD, Farmington Hills

Celebrating Arab Heritage: A Journey of Culture, Connection, and Understanding

On March 22, 2025, attendees gathered at the Arab American National Museum for an unforgettable day of cultural exploration, learning, and connection. From a delicious Middle Eastern lunch to an immersive tour and a wonderful presentation, participants discovered the traditions, diverse identities, and powerful stories that shape the Arab world and Arab American experience. It was truly a day of curiosity, conversation, and connection.

Read More Here

Journeys: World Religion in Metropolitan Detroit

More Than a Field Trip—It's a Journey

Cultural Journeys, the capstone of the Journeys: World Religions in Metropolitan Detroit program, go beyond religious education to explore the deep connections between faith, history, and culture. Through storytelling and critical reflection, students discover how beliefs are shaped—and how they can shape the world, too.

Read more about how these experiences are transforming Journeys students' understanding across differences.

Read More

Faith and Works Podcast

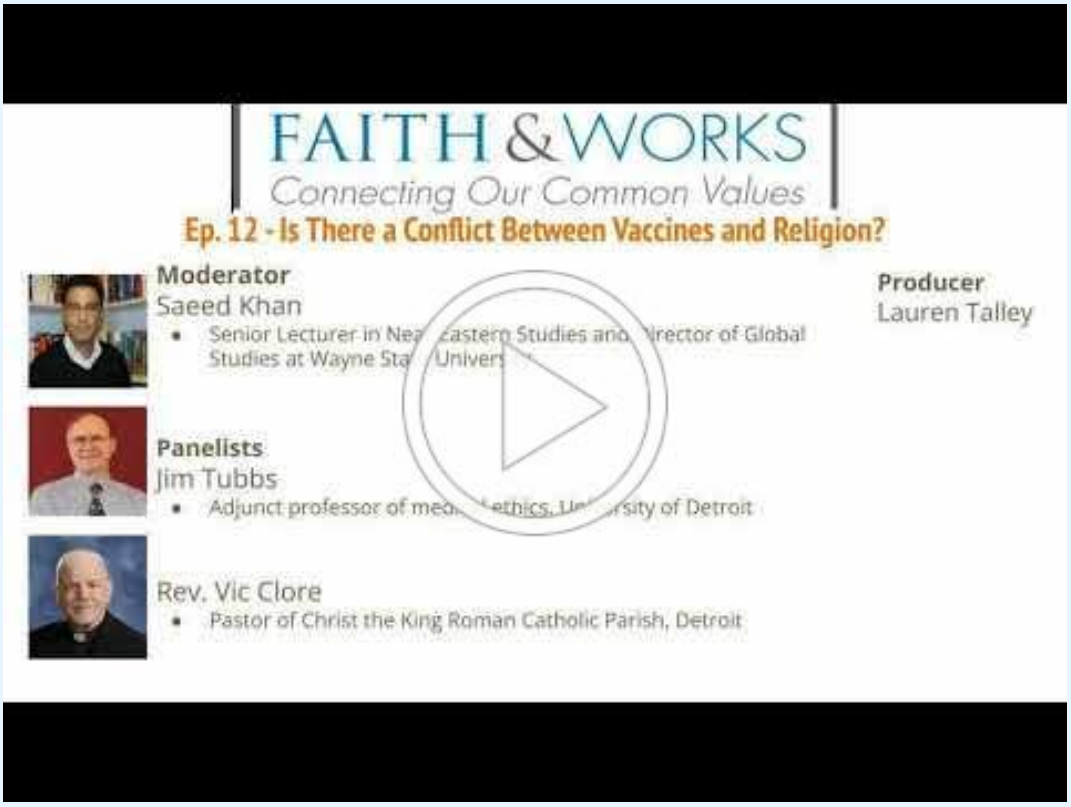
Sneak Peek Alert!

Get an early listen to the trailer for Part 3 of our four-part series: Women in Ministerial Leadership. This powerful preview explores the impact of Feminist, Womanist, and Liberation Theology—bringing not just critique, but hope.
What if more women shaped our faith spaces? Imagine less rigidity, more flexibility, and a renewed respect for women's voices in the public square.

Part 3 drops soon—don't miss it!

Still Timely, Still Relevant: Faith & Works Podcast – Episode 12

Are vaccines and religion in conflict? What's fundamentally important to understand at the intersection of faith, science, and public health? Revisit Episode 12: Is There a Conflict Between Vaccines and Religion? for a thoughtful and timely conversation that continues to matter today. Listen now and explore what faith leaders, medical experts, and communities need to know.



Commit To Be Resilient

InterFaith Leadership Council of Metropolitan Detroit | P.O. Box 252271 | West Bloomfield, MI 48325 US

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