InterFaith Leadership Council of Metropolitan Detroit

FAITHS CONNECTED, COMMUNITIES STRENGTHENED, TOGETHER WE THRIVE

2025 September Newsletter

Faiths Connected, Communities Strengthened, Together We Thrive

Interfaith Impact 2025: A Time to Belong

Couldn't join us for Interfaith Impact 2025?

Now's your chance to experience the inspiration! Our recap video captures the spirit of the evening at the Basilica of St. Mary, where people of many communities and faiths came together to experience the power of connection, resilience and healing. The event reflected our ongoing mission to build stronger communities as well as provide opportunities for individuals to connect and collaborate across differences. The evening was a true celebration of the strength each one of us has to build bridges and foster belonging in our everyday lives.

Experience the energy. Watch now!

IFLC Membership

Membership: The Opportunity, The Challenge, The Potential

This is your moment to **belong**. Membership in the InterFaith Leadership Council isn't about a single faith or tradition, it's about coming together to learn, connect, and build resilient, compassionate communities. Through educational programs, immersive experiences, and conversations, members can discover shared values, form deeper relationships, and take action that makes a difference. Join us, explore, engage, and be part of a community where every voice matters.

Read More Here

Rev. Dr. Charles Packer

IFLC Board of Directors and Co-Chair Education Committee

Bridging to Belonging

The Farmington Bridge Builders has been selected to receive the inaugural George Washington Unity Award at Mount Vernon on September 24, 2025! This national honor, presented during the Bridge Building Innovation Showcase & Awards Event, the kickoff for the first-ever in-person Bridging Movement Summit sponsored by the ListenFirst Project, recognizes their leadership in building trust, belonging, and community cohesion. From their roots in the Bridging to Belonging program to championing local events that celebrate

diversity, their work exemplifies resilience, humility, and a commitment to the greater good.

Read More Here

Interfaith Odysseys: Family Journeys

Step Inside the Heart of Hinduism!

Bring Your Family. Bring a Friend.

Interfaith Odysseys invites you to an evening at the Sri Sharadamba Temple, where a warm and welcoming community is opening its doors to share the beauty, wisdom, and traditions of Hinduism. This is your chance to experience a sacred space and connect with a community that embraces visitors as honored guests.

What to Expect:

- A heartfelt welcome from the Sri Sharadamba community
- A culturally inspired meal shared with friends old and new
- Guided tour of the temple, including sacred art and worship spaces
- Family-friendly atmosphere with space for questions

Event Details:

- Tuesday, September 16 | 6:00–8:30 PM
- Sri Sharadamba Temple, 26325 Halsted Rd, Farmington Hills, MI 48331
- Ages 10+ | $35 per person | $50 per family of 2+

RSVP today and invite someone to share this journey of discovery and connection!

CLICK THE FLYER BELOW TO REGISTER

Bridging to Belonging

Your Voice Matters. Come Belong With Us!

Community Through Conversation | Starting Very Soon!

Join us for a unique, guided conversation series designed to heal, inspire curiosity, and spark connection. Through storytelling and collective reflection, discover meaning in our differences and strength in our shared humanity.

Everyone has something to share. Everyone has something to learn. Take your seat at the table and be part of the conversation.

When & Where:

- September 13–November 8 | Fridays, 10:00 AM–12:00 PM (bi-weekly, five sessions)
- Geneva Presbyterian Church, 5835 N Sheldon Rd, Canton, MI 48187
- $150 | Includes all sessions, online materials, and a take-home Participant Guide
- *This is a mission-driven initiative. If cost is a barrier, we're happy to discuss flexible arrangements.*

Spaces are filling fast! Don't miss this opportunity to connect, reflect, and belong.

CLICK THE FLYER BELOW TO REGISTER

Travel coast to coast in just 60 minutes!

Join filmmaker Joseph Sim for ***A Road Trip Across a Divided America***, a powerful journey where he meets 200 strangers to explore one essential question:

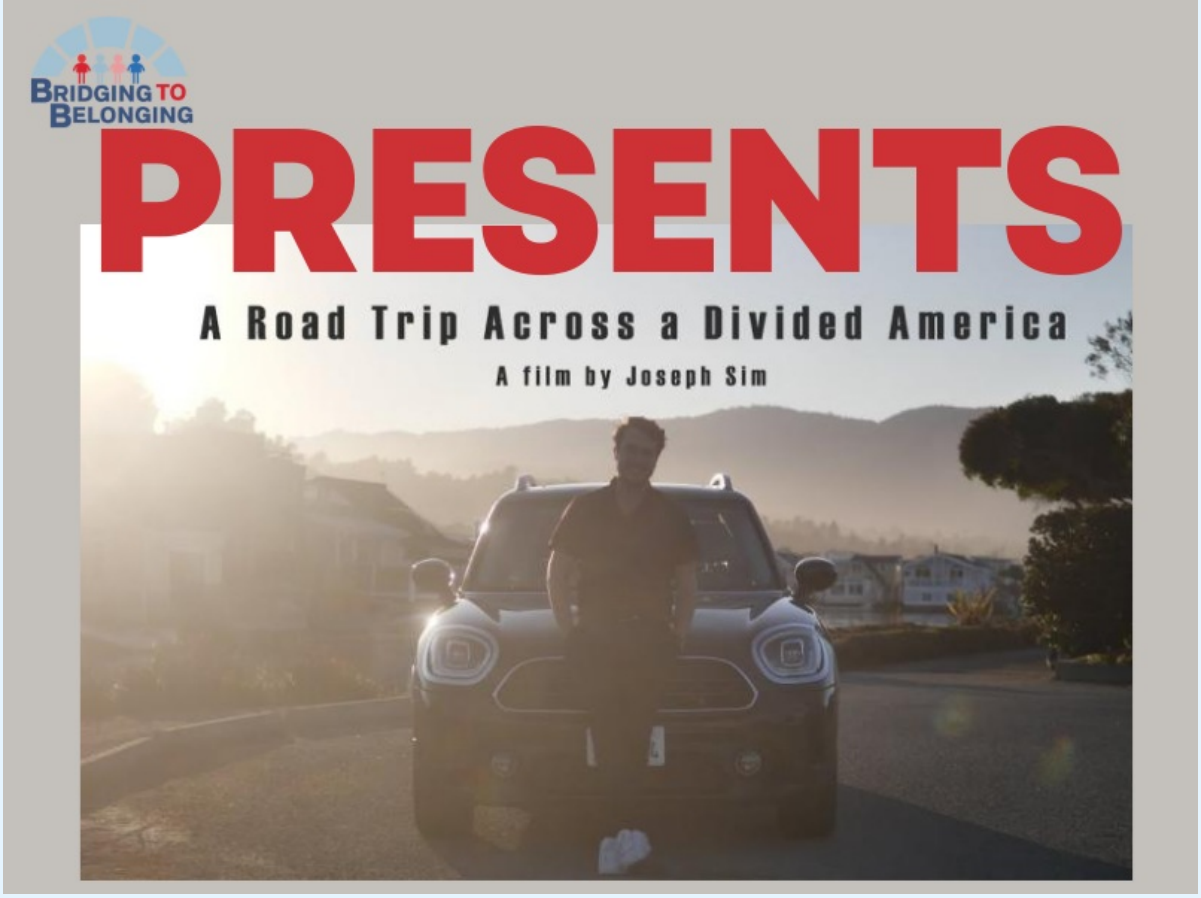
"How did we lose connection with those around us, and how do we get it back?"

Experience the film, reflect on the stories, and engage in conversation about the steps we can take to restore understanding and community.

Tuesday, September 30 | 6:00–8:00 PM | First United Methodist Church,
5005 Chicago Rd, Warren, MI | $5 admission.

One evening. Hundreds of voices. Infinite possibilities.

CLICK THE FLYER BELOW TO REGISTER



Healing in Connection:

A Bridging to Belonging Story

Belonging isn't found, it's created. Through the Bridging to Belonging program, people are coming together to heal, connect, and strengthen our communities. ***Watch*** these powerful stories and ***be inspired*** to help build a future where everyone belongs.

Hit play now!

Journeys: World Religions of Metropolitan Detroit

Real Stories, Real Connections!

Watch students, teachers, and administrators share how Journeys transformed their lives, their classrooms and their communities. Experience their moments of insight, connection, and belonging in a way that will stay with you ***long*** after the video ends.

Interfaith Health Equity Partnership

You're Invited!

Join us for the **Healthy Families Community Baby Shower: Uplifting Health Awareness for Women and Infants**. A joyful day dedicated to celebrating parents, babies, and community wellness!

Co-sponsored by the InterFaith Leadership Council of Metropolitan Detroit, alongside Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc.® Alpha Rho Omega Chapter, Aetna Better Health® of Michigan, Detroit Medical Center (DMC), and The Detroit Association of Black Organizations (DABO Detroit), this event brings together health, hope, and heart.

Expect inspiring sessions, a panel discussion, raffles, games, music, gifts, and a complimentary lunch, all focused on safe sleep, maternal health, and building strong families.

Don't miss this powerful day of connection and care. See details below!

Education Events

Bridging Cultures at Temple Shir Shalom!

We were honored to host **Ask A - Native American** at Temple Shir Shalom in West Bloomfield on August 27th, where the purpose of the event was clear: *to ask questions, explore, and learn*.

Guided by moderator Charles Packer, our audience had the privilege of hearing from two remarkable representatives: **Euphemia "Sue" Franklin**, Executive Director of the Southeastern Michigan Indians and an enrolled member of the Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa, and **Travis Schuyler**, Program Manager of the North American Indian Association of Detroit.

Participants eagerly engaged, seeking to understand Native American traditions, customs, culture, and spirituality. The questions and discussion provided meaningful stories and a rich understanding of Native American heritage, all in the welcoming presence of Rabbi Daniel Schwartz from Shir Shalom.

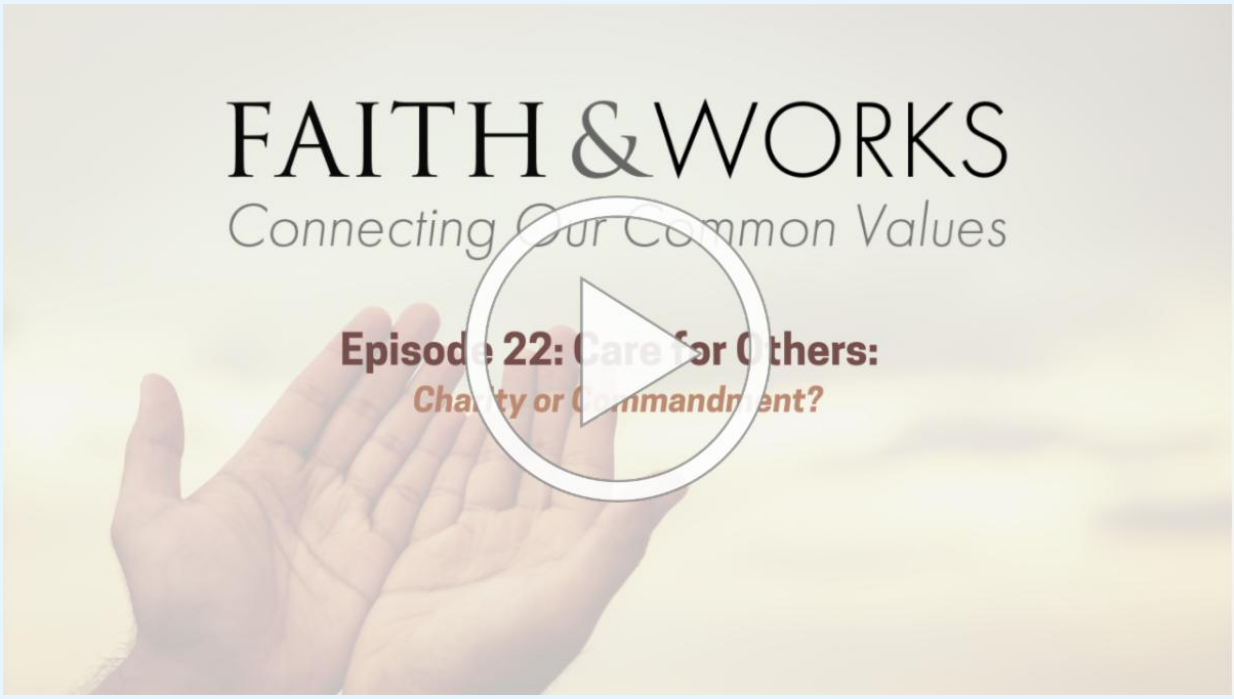
Events like this remind us how curiosity and open conversations can bridge cultures and deepen understanding across differences.

Faith and Works Podcast

Tune in to our newest episode!

Episode 22 of Faith & Works uncovers how faith calls us to care for others. Listen now and see how these ideas can transform the way you engage with the world.

HIT PLAY BELOW AND BE INSPIRED!



Interfaith Health Equity Partnership

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.

Commit To Be Resilient

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