



DUTCHESS COUNTY  
INTERFAITH COUNCIL, INC.

# Hope, Gratitude and *Solidarity*



June 19, 2020

**THE BOARD OF THE DUTCHESS COUNTY INTERFAITH COUNCIL STANDS SHOULDER TO SHOULDER** with so many religious and non-religious organizations in denouncing the murder of George Floyd. We support peaceful protests that ask our nation to address the unaddressed causes of racism that sicken our society and our souls. The work ahead of us is profoundly challenging, but our faith traditions demand that we look upon each other with the eyes of compassion.

We call all people to sit in judgment upon their hearts, knowing that it is our actions and our inaction that reveal our character. Let this be the moment where the oppressed are heard, supported, and uplifted. Let this be the moment where those who have ignored the pain of racism in America awake to see the injustice suffered by too many Americans. Let this be the moment we work together to bring about justice for all.

## SUNDAY SERMONS

A sermon preached by  
Rev. Luanne Panarotti,  
Pleasant Plains Presbyterian Church

*Gospel Reading: Matthew 15:21-28 Jesus left that place and went away to the district of Tyre and Sidon. Just then a Canaanite woman from that region came out and started shouting, 'Have mercy on me, Lord, Son of David; my daughter is tormented by a demon.' But he did not answer her at all. And his disciples came and urged him, saying, 'Send her away, for she keeps shouting after us.' He answered, 'I was sent only to the lost sheep of the house of Israel.' But she came and knelt before him, saying, 'Lord, help me.' He answered, 'It is not fair to take the children's food and throw it to the dogs.' She said, 'Yes, Lord, yet even the dogs eat the crumbs that fall from their masters' table.' Then Jesus answered her, 'Woman, great is your faith! Let it be done for you.'*

**... And it all starts with the listening.** We're having a listening problem in our nation right now. Amid all the unrest, we've all jumped into our ideological foxholes, and are busy lobbing hurtful, hateful, threatening things at each other across the social media divide. I was supposed to be working on a writing project of mine last week; instead I spent my time writing and deleting, writing and deleting Facebook responses, mostly because I didn't think it was going to do any good anyway. We're all just sitting in our rooms, looking out on one direction, listening to the echo of our own voices. And to some degree, that's how it is, right? We have our own lives, own experience, own perspective. But the only hope we have becoming a just society, a just community, a just nation is if we take some time to understand each other's perspectives. To listen to each other stories, most importantly the stories of hurt. The stories that need healing

**There seems to be a listening problem in today's gospel passage as well. One that takes my breath away every time I read it. ...**

[CLICK HERE](#) to read the full sermon.

### In memory of all those who have lost their lives due to Covid-19 ...

The number of confirmed deaths due to Covid-19 has surpassed 100,000. Those who have died were mothers, fathers, brothers, sisters, friends, beloved members of their community. In remembrance of those in our communities who have passed away from the virus, Dutchess Interfaith Council has established a "In Memoriam" page on our web site listing the names, ages, and a one sentence tribute of those who have died. [Dutchesscountyinterfaith.org](http://Dutchesscountyinterfaith.org)

[CLICK HERE](#) to leave the name, age and a one sentence tribute to be added to our websites "In Memoriam" page.





## STORIES OF THE HEART – A Story Circle in Rectangles!

DCIC Interfaith story circle thrives on in person connections. But we are in unusual times. We will have an end of year story gathering via zoom on June 24 at 7:30 pm. Theme: "Stories of the Heart". Share a story, tell us how it is going with you, or just listen.

***Join a virtual campfire and BYO snacks! Interested?***

Register by emailing [DCICstory@optonline.net](mailto:DCICstory@optonline.net) by June 22.

### **UPDATE DRIVE-THRU FOOD DRIVE held on May 31:**

In just two weeks, generous individuals like you and local faith-based groups raised over \$29,000 and donated hundreds of food boxes and grocery store gift cards. All monies raised were used to buy groceries and to make donations to food pantries, including a \$5,000 donation to Dutchess Outreach. (Dutchess Outreach has not only been preparing thousands of meals, but they are also making hundreds of deliveries to those who are unable to leave home.)

On May 31st, in front of Macy's in the Galleria parking lot, volunteers from around the county gathered to distribute approximately 600 boxes and bags heavy with groceries.

<https://midhudsonnews.com/2020/05/31/all-for-one-group-holds-community-food-drive/>



### Race Amity Conference Symposium 2020

Mayor Rolison and County Executive Marc Molinaro proclaimed the second Sunday in

June, Race Amity Day and capped off an incredible two days of deep learning and coming together of over 200 people for the 2020 Race Amity Symposium "Envisioning Race Unity" sponsored by the Race Unity Circle of Poughkeepsie. After a spiritual centering, sessions included presentations on the science of race, race in its historical context, implicit bias, White privilege/White fragility and building authentic relationships. Saturday afternoon featured a storytelling concert by 8 young adults from our community. See recording here- <https://zoom.us/rec/share/-OZPP-D36TN0eKPG1kHfWfY8RrvpX6a81yIfrqYMmBvh7WyE02nfWACbi0MDTQs6> Access Password: 8s+^Q4Vf and a Sermon/Arts slam from a variety of faith traditions. We will present recordings of several of the sessions in subsequent newsletters- stay tuned in! How can we at DCIC continue the discussion? Send us your ideas.

This grassroots effort was only possible because we all saw a need that we couldn't ignore. Through your response, individually and through your organizations, we made a difference. Among the groups that rallied together were:

- Jewish Federation of Dutchess County
- Mid-Hudson Muslim Jewish Alliance
- Hindu Samaj Temple
- Vassar Temple
- The Harding Club
- Trinity United Methodist Church
- Dutchess County Interfaith Council
- Unitarian Universalist Fellowship
- Wingate at Dutchess
- Christian, Latinx, Bahai, and Sikh communities
- Local elected officials who provided essential logistical help to support this food drive project



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Visit our web new site at [www.dutchesscountyinterfaith.org](http://www.dutchesscountyinterfaith.org)

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