



ICNY

Interfaith Center of New York



"No Kings" Interfaith Vigil, October 18th, 2025

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

Dear Friend,

This month, **ICNY** is excited to [announce our new partnership](#) with the **Interfaith Alliance**, a national interfaith organization founded in 1994 building an inclusive democracy with protections for freedom of belief and religious practice and with dozens of local affiliates in towns and cities around the country. This new partnership allows ICNY to join a network of like-minded local interfaith organizations across the country speaking out against extremism and protection of democratic rights, making their voices heard in Washington DC as well as in their local communities. Please find the press release [here](#). ICNY will contribute to the partnership a wealth of New York City interfaith experience with grassroots and immigrant faith leaders committed to strengthening our shared civic fabric.

ICNY and the Interfaith Alliance's launch event was a co-sponsored Interfaith Vigil for NYC Faith Leaders before the No Kings March on October 11. You can read about it in this [Religion News Service article](#). You can [read my conversation with Interfaith Alliance's Executive Director Rev. Paul Raushenbush](#) about the faithful fight against authoritarianism on his podcast. "The State of Belief."

Religious Resistance to Authoritarianism will also be the topic of ICNY's 43rd Social Justice Retreat on December 4, 2025 at 475 Riverside Drive. Keynote address will be given by **Dr. Ruth Ben-Ghiat**, author of *Strongmen: Mussolini to the Present*. Other speakers include **Dr. David Greenberg**, author of *John Lewis: A Life*, **Dr. Michael E. Lee**, author of *Revolutionary Saint: The Theological Legacy of Óscar Romero*, **Dr. Kim Shively**, author of *Islam in Modern Turkey*, **Dr. Duncan Ryuken Williams**, author of *American Sutra: A Story of Faith and Freedom in the Second World War*. See below for further information on how to join us this December.

Over 300 million people across the state of New York—including 1.8 million New Yorkers—who receive SNAP benefits will find their funds cut off as of November 1, 2025 if the Federal government does not re-open. Learn more about SNAP cuts [here](#) and one way you can fight hunger locally by donating to former **ICLA Fellow Isaac Alderstein's** [Broadway Community Food Program](#).

Sincerely,





The Rev. Dr. Chloe Breyer
ICNY Executive Director

[Donate](#)

ICNY PROGRAMS & EVENTS

Religious Resistance to Authoritarianism

RESISTANCE TO TYRANNY IS OBEDIENCE TO GOD.

Photo: Harris & Ewing Collection at the Library of Congress

Conference for Faith Leaders and Concerned NYers
December 4, 2025 • 475 Riverside Drive



ICNY
Interfaith Center of New York

UNION



THE RIVERSIDE CHURCH



INTERFAITH ALLIANCE
ACHIEVING DEMOCRACY TOGETHER

Scan to learn more and register
or visit bit.ly/relig-resist



People of All Faiths and None Stand Together!

Religious Resistance to Authoritarianism

Thursday, December 4th, 9:00 am - 5:00 pm

At the Interchurch Center, 475 Riverside Drive

Please join [the Interfaith Center of New York](#), [Union Theological Seminary](#), [Riverside Church](#), [The Beacon](#), and [the Interfaith Alliance](#) on Thursday, December 4, to explore past and present examples of faith community resistance to authoritarian rule. We will learn from the experiences of religious leaders and democratic movements around the world, in order to defend American democracy today. The **Religious Resistance to Authoritarianism** conference will be 43rd meeting of ICNY's long-running series of social justice conferences and retreats for religious and civic leaders. The conference program will include:

- keynote address by [Dr. Ruth Ben-Ghiat](#), leading scholar of authoritarianism and bestselling author of [Strongmen: Mussolini to the Present](#)
- panel discussions with faith leaders and scholars, exploring examples of religious resistance with vital lessons for Americans today
- musical performances, featuring songs of resistance and resilience from diverse religious communities
- working groups for relationship-building and practical planning – an opportunity to meet your neighbors and stand together against authoritarianism

All are welcome – we must all do our part! Scan the code or click the button to learn more and register, or go to interfaithcenter.org/religious-resistance.

Whether or not you can join us yourself, please help us bring diverse New Yorkers together. [Click here for a flyer](#) you can share, and click the following links for easy-to-share posts on [Facebook](#), [Instagram](#), [LinkedIn](#), [Threads](#), and [X](#).

Questions about the conference? Please contact ICNY's Director of Programs Dr. Henry Goldschmidt at henry@interfaithcenter.org.

Learn More and Register

Multifaith Mondays

Columbus Circle, Every Monday, 5:30-6:00 pm

Witness for Democracy



People of all faiths and none, join us for prophetic resistance and community-building in a time of deep division and threat to our shared democratic values.



Scan the QR code or visit bit.ly/multifaith-mondays to learn more, join our email



list, or express interest in speaking at a vigil.

Make Your Voice Heard

Multifaith Mondays: Moral Witness for Democracy

Every Monday, 5 :30 - 6:00 pm

Columbus Circle (gather at the USS Maine Monument on the SW corner of Central Park)

Since Monday, March 3rd, faith leaders and community members have gathered each week at Columbus Circle, to stand in solidarity and bear moral witness for democracy. Each vigil, held from 5:30 to 6:00 PM at the USS Maine Monument on the southwest corner of Central Park, is hosted by a different faith community or interfaith coalition. Through prayer, song, and collective presence, we affirm the power of spiritual resilience in the face of challenges to democratic values.

These gatherings serve as a space for reflection, connection, and public witness, reminding us of the shared moral responsibility across faith traditions to uphold justice and human dignity. If your house of worship or community organization would like to host a Monday vigil, [please sign up here](#). We invite all to join in this weekly call for unity and action.

Sponsors Include: **The Interfaith Center of New York | Union Theological Seminary | The Jewish Theological Seminary | Episcopal Diocese of New York | The Riverside Church | T'ruah: The Rabbinic Call for Human Rights | The BeaconNYC**

[Click Here to Fill Out Interest Form](#)

OTHER PROGRAMS & EVENTS

Listing does not imply endorsement by the Interfaith Center of New York

UPHOLDING HUMAN DIGNITY IN TURBULENT TIMES

AN INTERRELIGIOUS CONVENING



NOVEMBER 17-18, 2025

AT

THE JEWISH THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY

3080 BROADWAY (AT 122ND ST.), NEW YORK CITY

Join us for this two-day nonpartisan and interreligious convening to affirm and uphold the many forms of human dignity that are currently threatened.

Registration now available

Learn more »»



Interreligious Convening

Upholding Human Dignity in Turbulent Times

Monday and Tuesday, November 17 and 18, 2025

The Jewish Theological Seminary, 3080 Broadway

On Monday and Tuesday, November 17 and 18, The Jewish Theological Seminary will bring together religious leaders, scholars, and activists from diverse traditions to explore the urgent imperative of safeguarding human dignity, well-being, and fundamental rights in the face of ongoing challenges. All are welcome.

U.S. Senator Chris Coons of Delaware will deliver the keynote address: "Fostering a Just Democracy Through Belief and a Just Democracy Through Belief and Interreligious Engagement," with an introduction by Rabbi Jack Moline.

Bill McKibben, founder of Third Act, will deliver The Henry N. and Selma S. Rapport Memorial Lecture, addressing climate change, emerging technologies, and other threats to human well-being.

Other session topics will include:

- Interfaith Differences and Universal Frameworks
- Borders Within: The Human Impact of Detention, Raids, and Deportation
- Gender, Sexuality, and the Reproductive Freedom
- Hunger, Displacement, and Civilian Suffering
- Healthcare Access as a Human Right
- Religious Ethics and the Dehumanizing Potential of Emerging Technologies
- Fostering Dialogue and Unity for Dignity and Democratic Preservation

Learn more and register at jtsa.edu/event/upholding-human-dignity, or click the graphic above or the button below.

[Learn More and Register](https://jtsa.edu/event/upholding-human-dignity)

FALL 2025 NYC FAITH SECTOR PREPAREDNESS FORUM:

NYC FAITH LEADERS: BUILDING HOPE & SAFETY IN A CHANGING CLIMATE



Join us for a citywide forum

NYC Faith Leaders: Building Hope & Safety in a Changing Climate

Sunday, November 5, 2025

6:00 - 7:00 pm

18 Bleecker St, New York, 10012

The Brick Presbyterian Church is pleased announce the opening concert of their Worship and Arts 2025-2026 Season. We would love to work with The Interfaith Center of New York to promote this classical concert and important interfaith community event on the Upper East Side. We will be having similar interfaith events throughout the year. For this reason, we would love for you to come and see what our Sacred Resonance series is about!

Sacred Resonance: A World of Faith will be on Sunday, October 5th at 6 pm at the Brick Presbyterian Church. The service is meant to use the classical and traditional music to connect people of all faiths together. This will be an interfaith service, free of charge, and all are welcome to attend.

Our Soloists are as followed:

Hannah Goodman, *soprano*

Constantinos Yiannoudes, *baritone*

Nina Stern, *flute and clarinet*

Adam Good, *oud*

Shane Shanahan, *percussion*

The Chancel Choir is joined by an ensemble of flute, oud, and percussion for this service highlighting the unity of different faiths around the world. The music represents Greek Orthodox, Arabic, Sufi, and Jewish traditions, as well as hymns from our Presbyterian heritage.

Brick Church is grateful to Rev. Dr. Abigail Evans for her generous support of this service.

[**For More Information, Press Here**](#)

UNMUTED

**NOV. 5
7 - 9 PM
SOHO**

DOES FAITH UNIFY OR DIVIDE?

A Rabbi, a Priest, and an Imam Walk Into a Bar...



**Father
Jonah Teller**



**Rabbi
Daniel Bortz**



**Imam
Muhammad
Shahidullah**

A Rabbi, a Priest, and an Imam walk into a bar..

Religion in America: Faith, Identity, and Politics

Wednesday, November 5, 2025

7:00 - 9:00 pm

Address will be sent after registration

Faith gathers us into communities and sometimes pulls those communities apart. In a country where Christians, Jews, and Muslims all carry sacred fears about safety, belonging, and power, shared citizenship can feel fragile.

This isn't a feel-good interfaith night. It's a candid conversation about immigration, identity, and how global conflict has shaken American communities, followed by small-group discussions that ask each of us to confront the limits of our own empathy.

Join a rabbi, a priest, and an imam for a night about coexistence when none of us have neutral ground.

What to expect

- Honest conversations about religion's role in American public life across immigration, Israel-Palestine, and the law
- Audience participation at your table (you won't just be listening)
- Guided breakout discussions with prompts to help everyone share
- A room full of people willing to sit with discomfort

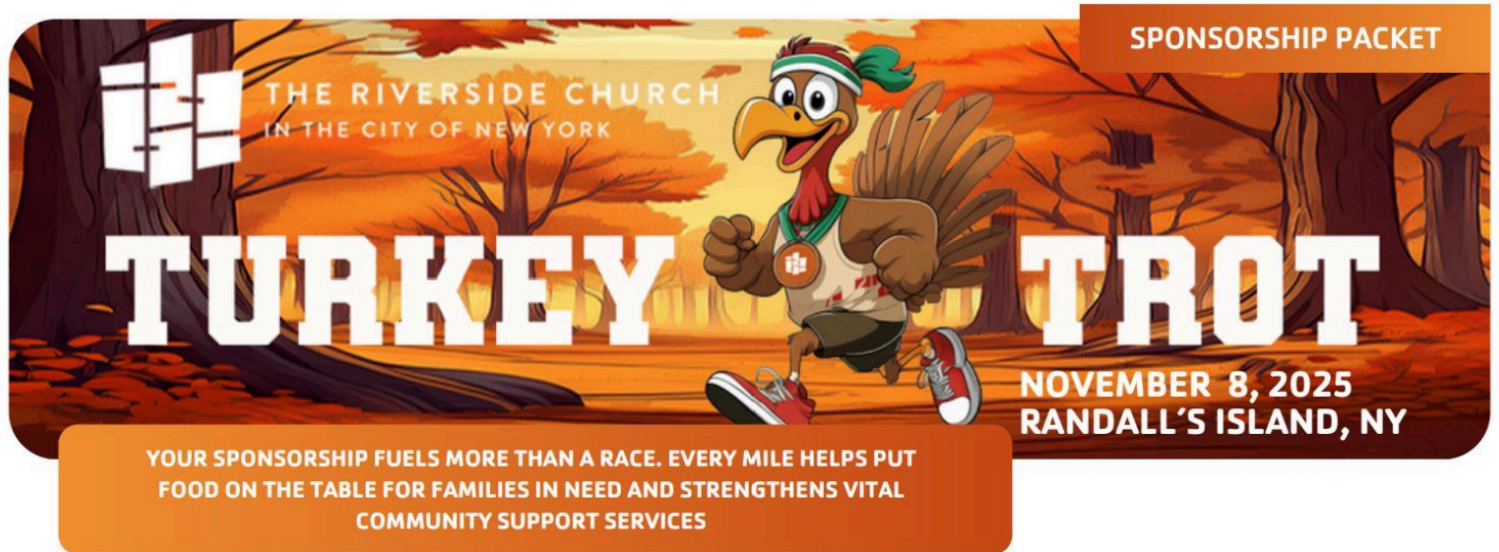
Who this is for

Anyone who cares about how we live together in a country that disagrees about what's sacred.

Community Norms

- Ask questions, not speeches
- Speak for yourself, not your whole community
- Hold tension without humiliation
- Bring conviction, and make room for someone else's

[Get Tickets Here](#)



Go for a Turkey Trot run

Turkey Trot 5K & Youth Turkey Dash

Saturday, November 8, 2025

9:00 am

Randalls Island Park, New York, NY

Enjoy a scenic loop around Randalls Island with beautiful views of the waterfront and the New York skyline. The 5K course takes runners on a full loop of the island, while the Turkey Dash is set 200 yards from the finish line.

Race through the scenic streets of Randall's Island at the Riverside Church's first-ever Turkey Trot 5K! This family-friendly event welcomes runners, walkers, and supporters of all ages for a morning of fitness, fun, and community spirit.

Kids can join the excitement in the Turkey Dash: a 100-yard sprint for ages 2-5 and a half-mile run for ages 6-13, making it a true celebration for the whole family. Whether you're chasing a new personal best or enjoying the breeze as you soak in the island's stunning views, every step you take helps make a difference.

All proceeds benefit The Riverside Church's Social Services and Food Pantry, which provides food, emergency assistance, and vital resources to families across our community.

[Book Your Tickets Now](#)

SELF-REPRESENTATION **AS RESISTANCE**

LEGAL EMPOWERMENT IN THE NYC AREA

Join the NYC Pro Se Collaborative and the Bernstein Institute for Human Rights for a day of study and reflections on pro se organizing and legal empowerment in the New York City area.

The convening will feature organizers, lawyers, and scholars who are engaged in community-based legal empowerment efforts with immigrant and refugee communities.

Sessions include:

- Community Organizing in the Era of Mass Detention
- Self-Representation Initiatives in New York City
- Cross-Regional Learnings in Self-Representation



RSVP BY NOV. 3RD

NOV. 11, 2025

10AM - 4:30PM

A light breakfast and snacks will be provided



Robert and Helen Bernstein
Institute for Human Rights
NYU SCHOOL OF LAW



PRO SE
COLLABORATIVE

Legal Empowerment for New New Yorkers

Self-Representation as Resistance

Tuesday, November 11th, 10 am - 4:30 pm.

NYU (Exact location provided upon RSVP)

Join the NYC Pro Se Collaborative and the Bernstein Institute for Human Rights at NYU School of Law on November 11 from 10am-4:30pm for a day of study and reflections on pro se organizing and legal empowerment in the New York City area. The convening will feature activists, lawyers, and scholars who are engaged in community-based legal empowerment efforts with immigrant and refugee communities.

More on our work:

Rapid and sweeping changes to U.S. immigration policy in recent months—including executive orders, lawsuits, and an aggressive campaign of raids, detentions, and deportations—are terrorizing immigrant communities. When injustice occurs, people are left to navigate a highly technical maze of laws, regulations, and courts on their own.

Legal empowerment—a rights-based approach that democratizes law—counters these harms by creating opportunities for people to know, use, and shape the laws that affect their lives. Rooted in building grassroots legal power as a pathway to systemic change, legal empowerment envisions a world where every person, regardless of immigration status, can advocate for their rights and dignity, with legal support strengthening both empowerment and self-determination. In the New York City area, groups such as the Pro Se Collaborative are leading on-the-ground efforts to meet this moment.

Convening Schedule:

- (10:00-10:30am) Registration & light breakfast
- (10:30-11:00am) Opening remarks
- **(11:00-12:00pm) Session One: Community organizing in the era of mass detention**
- **(12:15-1:15pm) Session Two: Self-representation initiatives in the New York City-area**
- (1:15-2:00pm) Lunch break
- **(2:00-3:30pm) Session Three: Cross-regional learnings in self-representation**
- (3:30-4:30pm) Informal reception

[Click for the RSVP Form Here](#)

INSTITUTE FOR RELIGION, CULTURE AND PUBLIC LIFE

COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY

American Religion is... Healing

Melissa Borja
University of Michigan

Shaunesse' Jacobs Plaisimond
University of Southern Florida

Cody Musselman
Harvard University

Moderated by
Justine Ellis
Columbia University

Wednesday, November 12, 2025
5:30-7:00pm
The Burke Library at
Union Theological Seminary

Join us for a discussion about Religion

American Religion is... Healing

Wednesday, November 12, 2025

5:30 - 7:00 pm

The Burke Library at Union Theological Seminary

3041 Broadway, New York, NY 10027

When it comes to health and wellness, Americans are divided on whether religion is healing or harming. Recent years have shown how our bodies can become sites of vulnerability and contestation, but do our religious identities and communities serve as sources of dignity and individual autonomy or as barriers to access and accurate information?

The “American Religion is...Healing” program offers new perspectives on how we can move past this kind of binary thinking, focusing instead on how ideas about religion and spirituality shape not only American public health approaches, but also the information we classify as credible or conspiracist. Join us for a conversation about what it means to feel well and to live well in precarious times.

Series: The Shifting Paradigms of American Religion.

Speakers: Melissa Borja (University of Michigan), Shaunesse' Jacobs Plaisimond (University of South Florida), and Cody Musselman (Harvard University).

Moderator: Justine Ellis (Columbia University).

Light Refreshments will be provided

This series is made possible by generous support from the Henry Luce Foundation.

[Register Here Today](#)



The New York Board of Rabbis

Where diversity and unity meet

Sacred Spaces in the Sightline: Threats to Our Institutions An Interfaith Program

Join us for an urgent interfaith discussion

Sacred Spaces in the Sightline

Thursday, November 13, 2025

12:00 pm

One Police Plaza, NY, NY

Join us for an urgent interfaith conversation on safeguarding our sacred spaces. *Sacred Spaces in the Sightline: Threats to Our Institutions* will explore the evolving risks facing houses of worship and faith-based organizations, and how communities can respond through partnership, vigilance, and unity.

Featuring remarks by NYPD Commissioner Jessica Tisch and Deputy Commissioner Rebecca Weiner, this event will bring together faith leaders and public safety officials in a shared commitment to protecting our institutions and the people they serve.

[Register here](#)

Union Grove Missionary Baptist Church

In Partnership with



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Blueprint for Wellness	Dental Screening
Other Health Information will be Available	Podiatry Screening



Blueprint for Wellness is a biometric screening that provide powerful insights into your health; informing you of your numbers to help manage health risks and prevent chronic disease. A trained Quest Diagnostics Health & Wellness provider will collect a number of measurements, including height, weight, blood pressure, waist and/or hip circumference as well as a small blood specimen. Screening typically takes just **10-15 minutes**.

Our Sponsors



Serving Our Community
Monday - Nov. 24
10am-3:00pm

1488 Rev. Dr. Fletcher C. Crawford Way
Bronx, NY 10460 / 347-590-3881
Rev. Frederick Crawford, Senior Pastor

Annual feed the Community & Health Fair

Your Health Matters

Monday, November 24, 2025

10:00 am - 3:00 pm

Union Grove Missionary Baptist Church

1488 Hoe Ave, Bronx, NY 10460

We are thrilled to partner with Union Grove Missionary Baptist Church, Pfizer and United Way's Choose Healthy Life to bring you the Annual Feed the Community & Health Fair. The event will be taking place on Monday, November 24th from 10:00am to 3:00pm.

This Community Health Fair is open to everyone. Attendees will have the opportunity to receive no-cost health screenings including dental, podiatric, biometric, among others. Additionally, attendees will receive free food items.

We hope to see you there!

#ADVENTUREON

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STORIES WORTH SHARING!**



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For More Information Contact: Paul Francois




 Email: Paul.Francois@Scouting.Org
 Phone: (347)920-0401
 REGISTRATION IS OPEN YEAR ROUND.
FIND ACTIVITIES AT WWW.CUBSCOUTS.NYC

Discover The Adventure of Scouting in America

Scouting America invites faith communities to explore meaningful partnerships that empower youth to grow in leadership, character, and faith. Together, we can bring the excitement and values of Scouting to the young people in your congregation – helping them build skills that last a lifetime.

Learn more and explore collaboration opportunities with us. See the flyer for details or contact Paul François at Paul.Francois@Scouting.org or (347) 920-0401.

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