



## February Newsletter: What's Happening at Interfaith Action SW Michigan

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### What's Happening at Interfaith Action

This section is designed to be copied and pasted into our congregational worship bulletins or newsletters.

Join us on [zoom](#)

## SUPPORT DRIVER'S LICENSES FOR ALL MICHIGAN RESIDENTS

Join Interfaith Action and advocates across Michigan in supporting the implementation of driver's licenses for all Michigan residents.

**Panelists:**  
 Lupita Sanchez, *SW Rural Michigan Organizer for We The People-Michigan*  
 Liz Balck, *West Michigan Advocacy Strategist for ACLU*  
 Simon Marshall-Shah, *Policy Analyst for the Michigan League for Public Policy*

March 13, 2023  
from 6-7 PM | [swmichinterfaith.org/upcomingevents](http://swmichinterfaith.org/upcomingevents) | Interfaith Action

### Support Driver's Licenses for All Michigan Residents | March 13, 2023 at 6 pm

Join Interfaith Action and advocates across Michigan in supporting the implementation of driver's licenses for all Michigan residents. The panel discussion on March 13, 2023 at 6 pm aims to raise awareness about the benefits of this policy. The panelists for the discussion include:

Lupita Sanchez, *SW Rural Michigan Organizer for We The People-Michigan*  
 Liz Balck, *West Michigan Advocacy Strategist for ACLU*  
 Simon Marshall-Shah, *Policy Analyst for the Michigan League for Public Policy*

Join us in calling on legislators to take action and make driver's licenses accessible to all Michigan residents. *This program will take place on Zoom (register below).*

## REGISTER HERE FOR MARCH 13



Join us on **zoom**

Interfaith Action

**EMBRACING THE GIFT AND NECESSITY OF INTERFAITH DIALOGUE**

An Evening with Jack Gordon of 'Interfaith-ish'

March 23, 2023  
from 6-7 PM

[swmichinterfaith.org/upcomingevents](http://swmichinterfaith.org/upcomingevents)

Co-Sponsored By:  
**ANSARI INSTITUTE**  
FOR GLOBAL ENGAGEMENT WITH RELIGION

Interfaith Action is excited to announce a program titled 'Embracing the Gift and Necessity of Interfaith Dialogue: An Evening with Jack Gordon of 'Interfaith-Ish' on **March 23, 2023 at 6 pm.**

In today's religious and political climate, it is more important than ever to create and participate in spaces where diverse faith traditions and backgrounds can come together. Our esteemed guest, Jack Gordon, has a rich history of facilitating Interfaith conversations, creating spaces for members of different faith traditions, political persuasions, and cultural backgrounds to engage in meaningful conversations. Jack Gordon is host of the radio show "Interfaith-ish" on WOWN 94.3FM Takoma Radio in Takoma Park, Maryland (episodes can also be found on Apple Podcasts). His show, 'Interfaith-Ish,' is described as "conversations about what we believe, why we believe, and how we navigate the common ground and

differences between our traditions." He has worked as a professional documentary filmmaker for nearly 20 years, and recently directed the short film 'To Bigotry No Sanction', commissioned by George Washington University. Jack has been active in the DC area interfaith scene since 2010, serving on the board of the Interfaith Council of Metropolitan Washington and spearheading the annual DC Interfaith Leadership Summit for young adult leaders in the region until 2017. Jack grew up in a religiously mixed family and identifies as a Baha'i who is also culturally Jewish.

Join us on March 23, 2023 at 6 pm, for an evening of reflection on the gift and necessity of Interfaith dialogue today.

*This program is co-sponsored by the Ansari Institute for Global Engagement with Religion at the University of Notre Dame.*

REGISTER HERE FOR MARCH 23

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## SPEAK UP

### **Interfaith Action takes Leadership in Gun Safety Work**

January 2023 broke records for the number of mass shootings in the U.S. Interfaith Action, in its leadership role with End Gun Violence Michigan organized a rally of faith leaders on the steps of the State Capitol in Lansing.





**Gun Safety events were held in communities across the state during January.**

A Gun Safety discussion was held at Trinity Episcopal Church in Niles with Dr Paul Detrisac, an Internist and Critical Care Physician, The Rev Karen Joy Kelly, Interim Rector at St Paul's Episcopal Church in St Joseph and Insp. Ryan Schoonveld Assistant District Commander of the 5th District of the Michigan State Police, in Niles.



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**Understanding the threat of white Christian nationalism to American democracy today**

**Findings from the PRRI/Brookings Christian Nationalism Survey**

Wednesday, February 8, 2023, 10:00 – 11:30 a.m. ET

The rising influence of white Christian nationalism in some circles of American politics is posing a major threat to the health of our democracy and our culture. A new PRRI/Brookings survey of more than 6,000 Americans takes a closer look at the

underpinnings of white Christian nationalism, providing new measures to estimate the proportion of Americans who adhere to and reject Christian nationalist ideology. The survey also examines how Christian nationalist views intersect with white identity, anti-Black sentiment, patriarchy, antisemitism, anti-Muslim sentiments, anti-immigrant attitudes, authoritarianism, and support for violence. Additionally, the survey explores the influence Christian nationalism has among our two political parties and major religious subgroups today.

On February 8, Governance Studies at Brookings and the Public Religion Research Institute will host the release of this new groundbreaking national survey. A panel of experts will discuss the survey results and what they reveal about Christian nationalism, the state of American democracy, and the health of our society.

[Register Here](#)

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**JUST POLICY**



*Photo by [Tim Mossholder](#) on [Unsplash](#)*

## **The Michigan Department of Civil Rights Releases a Report on Farmworker Housing and Hunger**

The report states that farm workers are the backbone of Michigan's agricultural industry, which contributes \$104.7 billion annually to the state economy, despite agricultural work being one of the lowest-paid and most hazardous occupations. The report emphasizes the vulnerability of farmworkers and the challenges they face with housing affordability, access, and conditions, exacerbated during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Overall, the study found that more than a third of farmworkers were classified as living in poverty. Notably, this is more than three times the official poverty rate in



the general United States. Food insecurity emerged as an important issue for farmworkers. Over a quarter of farmworkers were classified as having low or very low food security (27%)—more than double the level of food insecurity in US households (10.5%) in 2020 and almost seven times greater than the 3.9% of US households facing very low food security.

Food security is an important social determinant of health and good nutrition is foundational for overall health and well-being of farmworkers and their families. Food assistance programs for farmworkers and their families may be an important approach to address food security issues in this population.

***The report confirms the need for Interfaith Actions migrant food assistance initiative Project: Faith in Action.***

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TAKE A LOOK AT OUR GUN LEGISLATION ADVOCACY

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**March 21 @8pm**

End Gun Violence Michigan general meeting—all welcome on zoom.

Registration information to follow.

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## March 22

End Gun Violence Michigan is joining the United Methodist Conference on lobby day to advocate for gun safety laws.

[REGISTER FOR MARCH 22 HERE](#)

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# IN THE SPOTLIGHT



*Photo by [Jerónimo Bernot](#) on [Unsplash](#)*

## MLK Community Celebration

## **Interfaith Action participated in SW Michigan's Community Celebration of Martin Luther King**

On behalf of Interfaith Action, the Rev. Dr. Sid Mohn provided the Invocation at the launch of the weeklong MLK Celebration. He also participated in a panel entitled "Racism and Religion: Do We Practice What We Preach."

Holy One, You of many names, You named by all as Love and Justice.

Where there is hatred and division in our world, strengthen us to be bearers of love and respect.

Where there is discrimination and exclusion in our world, strengthen us to be bearers of justice and inclusion.

We confess the sins of racism, in the halls of government, in our houses of worship, in our libraries, classrooms and homes.

Forgive us our sins and may we earn that forgiveness by being proponents of anti-racism.

Inspire us to keep dreaming: to dream, and to demonstrate, and to demand, that justice rolls down like mighty waters.

Inspire us to dream in the valley and on the mountain top, to dream of a world house in which all people live together as one humanity.

Inspire us to work persistently for a society where all are provided protection and equity regardless of who they are, where they come from, or who they love.

In this new month of a new year, and with Brother Martin whispering and shouting to our souls, may we recommit to being a people of the dream – a dream of Inclusion, equity and justice for all.

So be it. Amen.

Rev Dr Sid Mohn



Photo by [Darold Pinnock](#) on [Unsplash](#)

### **An Inspirational Challenge from MLK**

*In Martin Luther King Jr.'s "Beyond Vietnam" speech, he calls for a revolution of values based on love:*

This call for a worldwide fellowship that lifts neighborly concern beyond one's tribe, race, class, and nation is in reality a call for an all-embracing and unconditional love for all [humankind].... When I speak of love I am not speaking of some sentimental and weak response. I'm not speaking of that force which is just emotional bosh. I am speaking of that force which all of the great religions have seen as the supreme



unifying principle of life. Love is somehow the key that unlocks the door which leads to ultimate reality. This Hindu–Muslim–Christian–Jewish–Buddhist belief about ultimate reality is beautifully summed up in the first epistle of Saint John: “Let us love one another, for love is of God.”



*Photo by [Ian Hutchinson](#) on [Unsplash](#)*

## New Resource

Interfaith Action has updated our Elected Officials Contact resource, which can be found on our website.

[INTERFAITH ACTION RESOURCE PAGE](#)

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**Be a Part of Interfaith Action Work -- Donate Today!**

Consider giving a financial gift to Interfaith Action. To learn more about our mission and goals, visit [www.swmichinterfaith.org](http://www.swmichinterfaith.org). You can donate online now, or learn more about our other donation options on our [website](#).

### DONATE TODAY

Interfaith Action  
podcast:



13 episodes

Interfaith Action (SW Michigan Peace & Justice Collaborative) is a coalition of various faith communities who understand that we are stronger when we act together. In a public policy climate where the most vocal voices are narrow and [more](#)

#### Interfaith Action

Religion & Spirituality  
★★★★ 5.0 • 3 Ratings

[Listen on Apple Podcasts ↗](#)

DEC 6, 2022

#### Our Common Goal: Rejecting Racism and Systemic Exclusion >

During this session, we have the privilege of welcoming Bishop Prince Singh to give a reflection on our ninth principle on 'Our Common Goal: Rejecting Racism and Systemic Exclusion!' The Rt. Rev. Prince Grenville Singh, Ph.D. serves as Bishop Provisional of the Episcopal Dioceses of Eastern and Wester...

[▶ PLAY](#) 45 min

NOV 28, 2022

#### Barriers and Bridges to the Common Good >

Part of our Theologies of Transformation and Actions for Justice Series During this session, we have the privilege of welcoming Diane Rapaport to give a reflection on our eighth principle on 'Barriers and Bridges to the Common Good.' Diane is a member of Temple B'nai Shalom in Benton Harbor. We...

[▶ PLAY](#) 43 min



### Our Contact Information

\*{{Organization Name}}\*  
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