



**2023**

# **Interfaith Awareness Week**

in the Grand Valley  
November 15 – 21

## **What is Interfaith Awareness Week?**

Interfaith Awareness Week reminds us that global religious history, while full of benevolence and goodness, is also fraught with conflict and conquest. By celebrating and lifting up interfaith awareness, the Grand Valley Interfaith Network affirms its commitment to honoring Freedom of Religion or Belief, which is recognized internationally as a universal human right.

Although religious conflict makes the news, organizations like GVIN remind us that many religions share similar values or beliefs. This year, IAW highlights two of those shared values – **loving** and **learning**. One of the traditions in the Grand Valley’s observance of IAW springs out of **love**: we encourage people to **donate blood** — a gift that keeps on giving. It’s amazing to know that one small act, like donating blood, can save the lives of people you’ll never know. IAW wraps up on Tuesday, November 21 with a focus on the **learning** – through the annual interfaith gathering we call **ThanksGVIN**.

In my life, I have found two things of priceless worth – learning and loving. Nothing else – not fame, not power, not achievement for its own sake – can possibly have the same lasting value. For when your life is over, if you can say ‘I have learned’ and ‘I have loved,’ you will also be able to say “I have been happy.”

Arthur C. Clarke

## **In this Toolkit**

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# Interfaith/multifaith Awareness

It's estimated that 85% of the people in the world identify with a religious group, practicing thousands of different religions. One website with short descriptions of many recognized religions is <https://learnreligions.com>

- ⇒ What religion(s) are you curious about (may include your current practice!)?
- ⇒ How do those different practices regard **loving** and **learning**?
- ⇒ How does your faith tradition or personal philosophy regard **loving** and **learning**?
- ⇒ How does your faith practice regard other paths?

Take a deep dive into another faith and learn about: philosophy/theology, major historical figures (founders, other proponents) and current thought leaders; how do people practice that faith in the 21st century; major events/commemorations/observances/holidays



## Fruita and Grand Junction IAW Proclamations key ideas

- ⇒ the City of Fruita honors and respects all religious beliefs, cultures, creeds, and races and...seeks to learn from those who believe that equal spiritual opportunity and human rights belong to every citizen
- ⇒ freedom of religion or belief (FoRB) is recognized internationally as a human right, and observances like Interfaith Awareness Week seek to promote and support that right for all individuals
- ⇒ the Grand Junction City Council honors and respects all religious beliefs, cultures, creeds, and races and every person's right to believe, or not believe, so long as actions taken in support of those beliefs or creeds do not infringe upon the rights of others
- ⇒ the annual ThanksGVIN community interfaith service...demonstrates that diverse religious perspectives are committed to learning and loving
- ⇒ the City of Fruita hereby intends to continue annually recognizing the importance of all beliefs in the community and to consider, respect, and value the uniqueness and importance of religious diversity in our community
- ⇒ GVIN has been networking together since 1977 and offers varied programs designed to bring diverse faith groups into dialogue to better practice peace, harmony, cooperation, and understanding
- ⇒ the ongoing activities of harmony among a diversity of faiths is a vital goal for all people

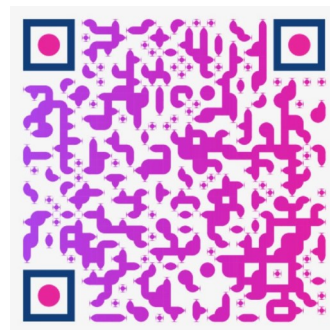
# IAW 2023 theme: Loving Gift of Love

**Gift of Love** is a local non-profit and is the designated charity for donations collected through the 2023 ThanksGVIN service.



**venmo**

Since 2016, Gift of Love has been providing personalized care packages to the clients at Hilltop's Latimer House, Fountains and Life Adjustment Programs, as well as Karis Teen Shelter (The House), and many other local facilities. They're on track to deliver over 1,000 packages this Christmas season. Checks donated during the ThanksGVIN service should be payable to **Gift of Love**. Online donations may be made via the venmo or Go Fund Me QR codes.



## Blood Drive

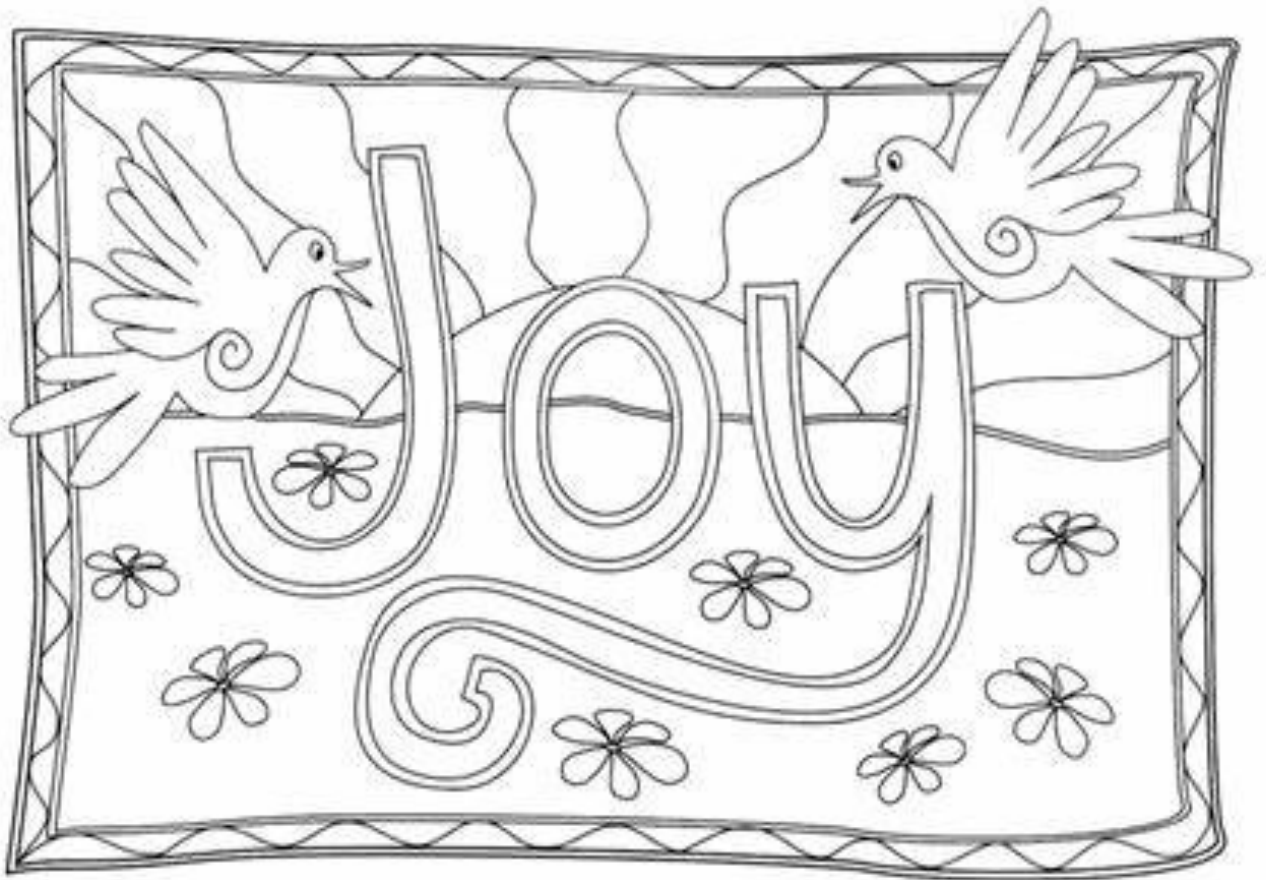


**You can save the lives of up to three people each time you give blood.** Nearly all faith practices, and most secular philosophies, affirm the importance of blood donation

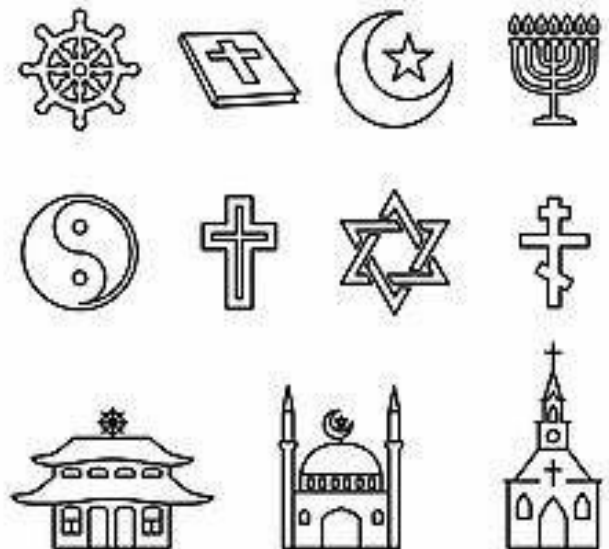
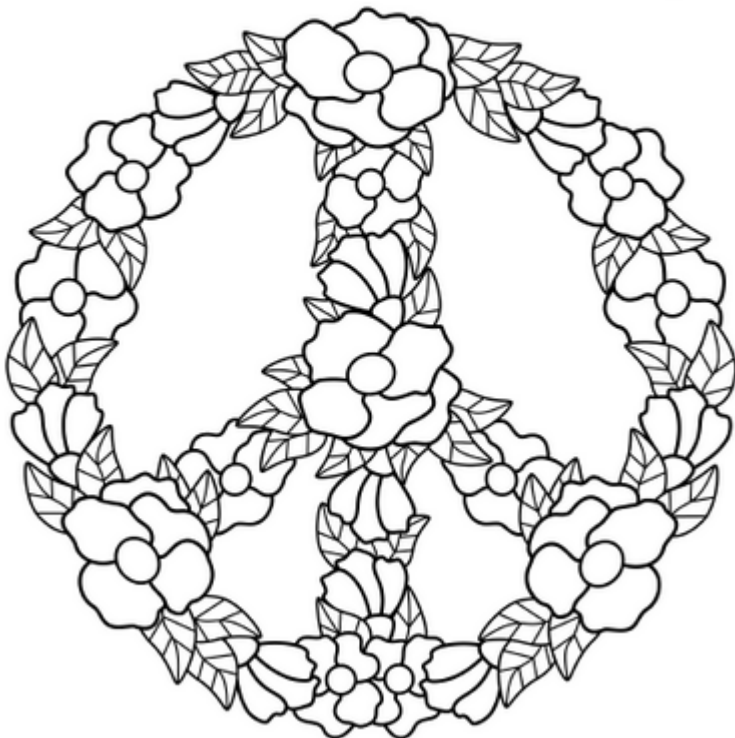
[Vitalant Grand Junction Blood Donation Center](#)

561 25 Road, Suite 102/B

(877) 258-4825



# Harmony



# IAW 2023 theme: Learning

## ThanksGVIN

Episcopal Church of the Nativity November 21 7:00pm

2175 Broadway mobility accessible; ASL translation

**Livestream** <http://nativitygj.org/>



## Winter Immersion

**& Sleep-A-Thon** December 1-2 1326 North 1st Street

**First Christian Church**, along with their partners **United Way of Mesa County** (and others) will host this evening to provide greater understanding about what life is like for our unhoused neighbors camping rough in our community. Gather to share food and learn from speakers with life experience about winter survival, poverty, supports for vital needs, and how to face other challenges that living outside brings. Then, spend the night camping on the south lawn of the church. Come prepared for sleeping in really cold weather for one night and gain insight into the lives of our unhoused neighbors who make the outdoors into their bedroom every night. Financial support will be donated to United Way's "United to Solve Homelessness Fund." More information at [First Christian's](#) website.

## A Space for Peace

**Unitarian Universalist** faith community invites you to express messages of peace with chalk on a Space for Peace in their parking lot at 536 Ouray Ave. People are welcome to add messages of peace daily; if someone writes something yucky, simply surround it with more messages of peace.

Join the campaign by creating a Space for Peace at your home, business, or faith community. Find more information on [Unitarian Universalist Congregation of the Grand Valley](#) facebook page.



# About Grand Valley Interfaith Network

## Who We Are

The [Grand Valley Interfaith Network](#) was originally incorporated in November 1977 as “COSMICOS, Inc.” for religious purposes. GVIN is an inclusive and diverse group of individuals and organizations, representing various faiths, including Christianity, Judaism, Islam, New Thought, Unitarianism, and more. Members and Friends come together to promote religious understanding, respect, and cooperation in the Grand Valley area. GVIN seeks to provide a means for coordinated community service and action, to foster opportunities for learning and mutual support, and to serve as a clearing house of information and resources between the community and the members.

## What We Do

We organize various [programs and events](#) that promote interfaith understanding, including interfaith dialogue forums, workshops, and community service projects. Through these initiatives, we aim to create a space where people can learn about different religious traditions, explore common values, and celebrate diversity .

## Join Us

“For though my faith is not yours and your faith is not mine, if we are each free to light our own flame, together we can banish some of the darkness of the world.”

Rabbi Lord Jonathan Sacks OBM



We welcome individuals and organizations of all faiths to join us in our mission. Whether you are a member of a religious community or simply interested in learning more about different faiths, there are many ways to get involved. Together, we can make a difference and promote understanding among different faith traditions.